Y. JANUARY 28, 18,

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جوردان تايمز يومية سناسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية ،الراي،

> over the whole region." the delegates said in a statement. "Israel is striving for regional expansion not regional cooperation... it thus asserts its racist Zionist nature," the statement added.

> Lebanese vow to resist 'normalisation'

BEIRUT (R) - Scores of Lebanese politicians, religious leaders

and intellectuals pledged on Saturday to resist normalisation of ties with Israel and called for the establishment of an Arab common market. Some 300 delegates at a "founding national conference for

market. Some 300 delegates at a "founding national conterence for resisting normalisation" said the Arab-Israeli peace process was misleading and an Israeli design to control the Middle East. The delegates came from a broad span of Lebanese political and religious groups. They included 10 deputies and representatives of the mainstream spiritual leaders of the Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim and the Maronite and Orthodox Christian communities. Former

Sunni prime ministers Selim Al Hoss and Rashid Al Solh, both deputies, representatives of right-wing and lefaist groups and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah fighting Israel in South Lebanon attended the one-day conference. "We face a new misleading Zionist war

which feigns an apparent peace through its withdrawal from some of the occupied Arab lands so it can control and have begemony

AMMAN SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1995, SHAABAN 28, 1415

# WASHINGTON (R) — Consider Bill Clinton Clinton that he is strong convictions, saving Volume 19 Number 5830 strong control that he was a state on tough the strong control to the strong control to

who has the Secretary of State for the line to Middle East Robert Pellet-Some state of the changes in the Clinton admibittle king Congress, the Clinton admission in the Rich in the mistration remains committed and the Rich in the mistration remains committed sections of the repertor mistration remains committee of the repertor meeting Jordan's economic and a smic and security needs in the State of the Union and Mr. Pelletreau met Saturgramatisce in failure in day with His Majesty King and therefore about note enough Hussein to discuss the U.S.-and therefore about note enough Middle East peace

202 therefore about only sponsored Middle East peace sponsored managed of process and bilateral relaone he wis tions. The talks also covered 2 Toder and thow to improve and strengpolitical tathen our cooperation in ways the Washin that the Jordanian people Mr. Pelletreau told Jordan

Television. ... Two 2 is .. The U.S. official, who also other or met with Prime Minister Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Saturday, was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as The pledging U.S. support to Jor-decorate dan through debt write-offs and the encouragement of (2)2 1 merican private sector in-

addition to debt forgiveness. agreed on last September. President Clinton told a joint session of Jordanian Parliament on the day of the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace accord that the U.S. would work with Jordan to meet its "legitimate defence require-

Thus far, roughly one-third of Jordan's debt to the U.S. was wiped off the books in 1994, and should be completely erased by 1997. However, Jordan still owes the U.S. \$300 million more in debts that are not eligible for write-offs. On top of this remaining debt, Jordan still shoulders \$5.5 billon in total debt to a number of other countries. The U.S. has lobbied its allies to follow suit with debt forgiveness, but the effort so far has been largely

Jordan in September submitted a request for \$25 billion aid in grants over the

Bradley armoured fighting vehicles and a significant amount of support and ammunition. No military or financial aid has been forthcoming from the request.

Mr. Felletreau said he was not yet ready to discuss the September request but, through various programmes, he hoped to see U.S.-Jordanian cooperation grow, and to see "our country do more here.

Asked if the U.S. intends to abide by its commitment to providing military aid to the Kingdom, Mr. Pelletreau said that "we do intend to increase our assistance in this area although to what extent is not known."

"We recognise the importance of Jordan feeling the benefits of peace," he told journalists at a press conference at the American embassy. But he would not elaborate on the amount of aid that has been proposed to Con-

said, "and we are encouraging other holders of Jordanian debt to adopt a similar process.'

Mr. Pelletreau indicated the administration may be facing negative responses from a conservative Republican Congress. Congressional elections last November sent "sharp messages" to the govemment when a Republican majority was voted into Congress, he said.

"We will have to work out new relationships with Congress and committees," he said. "Our intention is to develop maximum bipartisanship on foreign policy, and my feeling is that on Middle East peace, there is broad bi-partisan support."

Petra reported that during his meeting with Mr. Pelletreau, King Hussein reiterated his willingness to use his new relations with Israel to adv-

(Continued on page 7)



### Lawmakers begin debate on government policy; vote today

By Ayman A! Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Lower House of Parliament on Saturday began debating the policy statement of the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in a session that is expected to end today with the cabinet obtaining a com-fortable mandate from the legislature.

The overall message of the majority of the 20 deputies who took the floor yesterday was comforting to the prime minister, whose cabinet is expected to win 54-50 votes of confidence from the 80member legislature.

Sharif Zeid asked for the confidence of the House Wednesday on the basis of a policy statement that pledged cooperation with the legislaimprove the economy, con-solidate democracy and better ties with Arab countries.

Most of the deputies described as comprehensive and satisfying the policy statement of the government, but many of them criticised the composition of the cabinet and its "failure" to ensure fair geographic representa-tion of all areas in the coun-

But even among lawmakers who were critical of the ministerial team, there was no dissent against the premier himself whom most deputies praised for his "integrity," respect for demo-cracy and the legislature and his ability to lead at times of difficulties.

Domestic issues took prominence over foreign policy affairs in the first day of the session with most lawmakers addressing, though in general terms, the governnomic development, proceed with administrative reform, ease the burden of poverty

and unemployment and achieve "fairness" in public sector appointments.

But some deputies attributed the obvious lack of focus on the peace treaty with Israel to the fact that most of the traditional opposition deputies did not take the floor and will address the House

While some lawmakers criticised the government for excluding representatives of their constituencies from the ministerial team, former Prime Minister and ex-Speaker of the House Taher Al Masri said that a large segment of "the Jordanian people have been kept out of the government."

In what was interpreted as a reference to Jordanians of Palestinian origin, Mr. Masri (Amman) said that the exclufrom the government "seems

(Continued on page 7)

### King stresses media role in serving public

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday urged journalists to shoulder the responsibility of spreading public awareness of freedom, justice and righteousness but warned them against monopolising the truth.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki at the opening ceremony of the 12th Congress of the International Organisation for Jour-nalists (IOJ), the King stressed the importance of objectivity in the journalistic pro-

"We hope democratic dialogue will be reinforced in a free, objective, tolerant and respectful manner. Differences in opinion are accepted as long as they don't infringe upon the others' point of view." he said.

The King said Jordanian legislation has been amended to enhance democracy hand in hand with freedom of speech and expression.

"Press laws and legislations have been modified - the Press and Publications Law and Copyright Law in particular — to found journalism on principles of freedom and national responsibility," he said. This is being established to "secure freedom of speech and expression as an individual's right as much as it is a right to the press...," he

The opening of the conference at the Royal Cultural Centre was attended by more than 200 participants representing 96 countries. For the first time in the history of the organisation, IOJ holds its meeting in an Arab coun-

"I am pleased you have chosen our capital to hold your 12th meeting here." the King said.

The King hoped the meeting would be a chance not only for the IOJ to consolidate its role in protecting

### Israel starts pullout from Jordanian land tomorrow

By P.V. Vivekanand lordan Times Staff Reporter

4MMAN — Israel will start Pane: endo:ses withdrawing its forces to Wide: testing of newly-delineated internationil borders on Monday and AIDS VECCINE the process will be completed as stipulated in the Oct. 26 peace treaty between the two Maniscountries, a senior Armed

Forces official said Saturday. Brigadier-General Tahsin

100 nz Shurdom, head of the Jordaterong of aim side to the joint committerest tee with Israel on borders and

101 part security affairs, said the withpart security affairs, said the withpart part security affairs.

102 part security affairs and the withpart security affairs and would come in two
phases and would be com-gereleps pleted by Feb. 10.

Brig-Gen. Shurdom, who ACCINE SERVINGS also closely involved in results the negotiations that led to the General Headquarters of details the Armed Forces that the withdrawal ingrowing volves areas in the south bethe Lamburg Monday and the second in the north beginning

The withdrawal follows the formal of the demand on Jan. 17 of the demarcation of interthe dall inational borders along the Israeli siege will harm

the shores of the Red Sea in the south.

Brig.-Gen. Shurdom said the Royal Geographic Society of Jordan and its Israeli counterpart and the Royal Engineering Corps of the Armed Forces and Israeli army engineers were closely involved in the executive part of the border delineation and demarcation process that started on Nov. 10.

Officials said most of the mines on both sides of the horder had been removed. "A little bit more work remains to be done in this respect but it would be completed on schedule," said one

Brig-Gen. Shurdom said Jordan would get a total of 380 square kilometres of land under the peace treaty. The bulk of the land is in the south and was occupied by Israel between 1968 and 1970. he said.

The territory in the north was seized by Israel in 1950 in an area known as Baqoura, where a hydro-electric pro-

entire stretch of land down ject that was called the from the junction of the Yar-Rotenburg complex existed mouk River in the north to before the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

"We are getting every inch of Jordanian land" occupied by Israel, Brig-Gen. Shurdom emphasised.

Brig-Gen. Shurdom said some parts of the land in the north were owned by Israelis but the territory remained under Jordanian sovereignty under the peace treaty. "Israelis only have own-

ership of some pieces of farmland in the north, and the Jordanian government has given them permission to use the land," he told the briefing.

There is also a small strin of land in the south were Israelis are permitted by the Jordanian government to work in farming, but there is "no leasing or renting of Jordanian land to anyone," he said.

"These lands are Jordanian land under Jordanian sovereignty and special passes will be given to farmers in the area by the Jordanian

(Continued on page 7)

### Yemen asks for border monitors

SANA'A (Agencies) — Yemen called Saturday for foreign monitoring of its border with Saudi Arabia following a deadly skirmish earlier this

month. President Ali Abdullah Saleh said Friday that Saudi troops massed over the border to the point where they could be seen from Yemen "with the naked eye," but had pulled back somewhat.

Through an official source, the government Saturday called for a joint military commission including Egyptian and Syrian officers to carry out a fact-finding mission to the contested border.

The source, who refused to be identified, said the mission would serve to restrain "those who seek to ignite sedition in the region.

He was referring to hardline elements within the Saudi leadership whom the Yemenis hold responsible for exacerbating bilateral tensions, according to diplomats

The trouble started when Yemen charged Saudi Arabia was building roads into its territory near the border, which has been disputed for

sed and attacked, killing a construction worker.

Following Egyptian and Syrian mediation efforts, a parley was opened between pro-Saudi Yemeni politicians and Saudi leaders in Riyadh. Mr. Saleh said the Saudi forces, comprising one

armoured and one mechanised brigade, had withdrawn 10 kilometres as a result of the parley. However, he added that the talks had not reached "positive results." Yemen and Saudi nego-

tiators trying to resolve the dispute at talks in Riyadh were stuck on proposals that are "irreconcilable," a Yemeni official said.

Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, denied it had massed troops and weapons along the two countries' border in moves which the Yemeni official charged were designed to put pressure on the negotiations.

(Continued on page 7)

### PNA cabinet approves agreements with Jordan

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The cabinet of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Saturday ratified the Jordanian-Palestinian agreements signed in Amman

Thursday, officials said here. Palestinian Labour Minister Samir Ghoshe told reporters the council of ministers ratified the political and economic cooperation accords during its weekly meeting

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker signed the cooperation and coordination agreement in Amman.

Other ministers also signed seven accords on administration, education, banking, commerce, culture and information, transport and communications.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti will attend the opening ceremony and will also visit the self-rule enclave of Jericho on the West Bank, the official said after the Palestinian Author-

The Palestinian agency WAFA said the authority welcomed Jordan's move.

ity meeting.

. Talks on refugees

Egyptian, Jordanian and Palestinian officials will meet in Cairo on Feb. 4 to discuss the issue of Palestinian refugees from the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, an Egyptian offi-

cial said Saturday.
The three sides aim to coordinate their stance on the refugee issue ahead of discussions due to be held at an unspecified date with Israel.

The meeting will be

Karim Kabariti, as well as a PNA official. Experts from the three sides met on Tuesday and

said they reached agreement on a number of oustanding issues concerning the return of Palestinians who fled their homes, mostly to Jordan. The three parties drew up a

paper to be presented to Israel concerning the repat-riation of the Palestinians, and said they had agreed on a method to arrive at realistic statistics on the number of refugees.

Under the 1993 Palestinian-Israeli peace deal, Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians are to discuss repatriation of refugees and displaced people and set up a mechanism to do

The discussions do not deal with "deportees" whom the Israelis have refused to allow

journalism as a profession but also for Jordan to make on overall assessment of the democratic process, which was introduced in 1989. "We see in this meeting a chance to look upon our reality and our achievements. It is a chance to evaluate democracy, journalism and the

country's professional and cultural institutions," he said. "We have always chosen liberty, democracy and human rights. We always wanted to join people's quest for peace and justice. In this context, we sought peace that would restore to the people their rights. We achieve a peace treaty-with

(Continued on page 7)

#### peace, PNA warns more than 60 years. Jordan in February will Yemen claimed Saudi open an official representatroops killed 10 Yemenis in a tion in the Gaza Strip, a Jan. 10 incursion. The Saudis troops arrested "dozens" of tion," Mr. Kanafani said. Palestinian official said. maintain the Yemenis crossuspected "militants" in the

GAZA (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) said on Saturday Palestinian National Autho The Israeli government sealed off the territories last sunday after a suicide bomb

The Court of the C Stanic Jihad guerrillas which islamic Jihad guerrillas which killed 21 Israelis.

Marwan Kanafani, spokesman for Palestine Liberation
Organisation (PIO) man for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, said the PNA, at its weekly meeting in Gaza, "discussed Israel's Palestinians, which will harm that the peace process and is as

Palestinians, which will harm the peace process and is as it dangerous as the acts which will harm led to these measures."

The president (Arafat) is worried about this situation. Israel has to immediately lift the closure. We think we have an explosive situation. have an explosive situation with

Mr. Kanafani said the PNA discussed economic alternatives and "will take some steps to alleviate the

"But it cannot solve the problem, because the solution lies beyond the capacity of the Palestinian Author-Referring to Palestinian

efforts to rein in militants after the attack, Mr. Kanafani said the authorities were "carrying out necessary measures concerning Palestinian security." Amid Israeli calls for tougher action against Isla-

Jihad members since the The PNA on Saturday also denounced an Israeli raid on an Islamic college at Abu Dis in the occupied West Bank, saying it posed "a serious

mic militants, the PLO has

detained about 20 Islamic

threat to the entire peace process. The Israeli army said its

 $(H(X) \cap X) = (H(X) \cap H(X) \cap$ 

taid at dawn on Friday. The authority said in a statement that it "categorically denounced" the arrest of 21 students and damage to

the troops. Its education department demanded that Israel immediately release all those detained.

furniture and equipment by

"The Ministry of Education is expressing its strongest outrage following the Israeli attack against the College of Science and Technology," it said in a statement. "This military action is a

violation of academic freedoms, the peace agreement and the agreement for early empowerment in the West Bank," the statement said.

We are demanding the immediate release of all the college students and employees that have been de-

(Continued on page 7)

#### attended by the foreign ministers of Egypt, Amr Musa, and Jordan, Abdul back into the West Bank or

**Dudayev threatens war on Russian cities** MOSCOW (Agencies) -Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev told Interfax news agency on Saturday the conflict could spread to Russian cities if the war

continues for another month. "Intensive preparations are under way to move military operations on to the territory of the Russian Federation," it quoted him as saying. "It is no problem to burn towns. For this, there is no need for tanks or aircraft. It is enough to resort to the most simple methods."

Earlier on Saturday, Chechen Information and Press Minister Movladi Udugov said Chechenya disowned another minister's threat to "burn Moscow." But Mr. Dudayev made clear this option was open.

"If the military actions in Chechenya continue for another month the war will spread, irrespective of his wishes, to Russian towns," Interfax said, quoting Mr. Dudayev's comments in a telephone interview.

"No tanks will save Moscow. In any case, apart from the Russian capital there are the Northern Caucasus, Krasnodar, Stravropol area, Astrakhan district," he said, referring to regions, towns or cities on Russia's southern

Mr. Dudayev said the only way to stop the war was for him to meet Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. He said he wanted to avoid the war spreading out of control.

"It is not what I want, it is

a precise plan. (Russian President Boris) Yeltsin has been warned. If there is no peace in Chechenya, his Russian cities will burn and an Islamic war will begin on Russian soil," Mr. Dudayev was quoted as saying by the Italian magazine Espresso.

Chechen forces "will soon have the means even to fight Russian aircraft," he told the weekly. "I cannot reveal what these means will be, or where they will come from," he added.

Russia said on Saturday its forces had killed 4,836 rebels in the seven-week campaign to bring breakaway Chechenya to heel, Interfax

reported. It quoted the government press service as saying Russian forces had captured 333

rebels. Moscow has said its army and Interior Ministry losses so far are 617. The rebels put Russian losses far higher. Independent figures are not available.

The government announcement also confirmed Russian warplanes struck targets in Chechenya on Saturday, Interfax said. Moscow did not say where the targets were, but the agency reported earlier they were in the southern mountains of Chechenya.

"Enemy losses up to Saturday were: killed — 4,836, captured — 333," it said. Interfax said the govern-

ment report was based on information from Russian headquarters, which are in Mozdok, north Ossetia, a region near Chechenva.

parliament speaker warned Saturday that Israel might resort to major military operations on the last active Arab-Israeli war front in South Lebanon to try to break a deadlock in Middle East peace talks and to punish opponents of the peace

process. Nabih Berri, who also is leader of the pro-Syrian Amal movement fighting Israeli occupation forces in the south, said Israel may go to war to make up for losses in the fight against the hard-

Mr. Berri's warning came amid anxiety in Lebanon that Israel might use its military superiority to avenge last Sunday's suicide bombing that killed 21 Israelis and wounded more than 60 north of Tel Aviv. Most of the victims were soldiers.

The Palestinian group Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Speaking at a medical conference in the southernmost port city of Tyre. Mr. Berri said Israel had failed to impose a settlement on Syria and Lebanon and was unsuccessful in neutralising Egypt in the Arab-Israeli talks.

Faced with all these failures, particularly the security ones, Israel is looking for a soft belly to launch a war, Mr. Berri said.

Mr. Berri did not say when or what form Israel's retaliation would take, but he indicated the Jewish state might invade.

The Shiite Muslim leader said Israel was mistaken for presuming that Lebanon would be an easy arena for its invasions." Any attack would be a failure like previous ones, he added.

BEIRUT (AP) - Lebanon's militants of Hizbollah have been on heightened alert in South Lebanon fearing retaliation for the bomb-

> Hizbollah, Amal and Palestinian factions opposed to the peace talks have been engaged in a guerrilla war against Israeli forces occupying a border enclave in the south they call a "security zone.

> Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, seeking to reassure a bewildered Israel after the bombing, vowed in a public speech last Monday that his government would hit hard at opponents of peace and "no border will stand in our way."

Israel has previously invaded Lebanon twice, in 1978 and in 1982, under the pretext of protecting its northern flank from cross-border guerrilla assaults.

The costly 1982 invasion. during which Beirut became the first Arab capital to be occupied by Israeli forces, ended in 1985 when Israel withdrew the bulk of its forces to near the border and established the "security

In July 1993, Israeli warplanes, gunboats and ground artillery blasted South Lebanon for seven days in retaliation for rocket attacks on northern Israel.

About 150 people were kil-led and 500 wounded, mostly

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher brokered an understanding that ended the blitz. Under the arrangement, Israel halted the bombardment in return for Hizbollah refraining from firing rockets into northern Israel. The arrangement has Guerrillas of Amal and the held since despite violations.

### Hizbollah leaders urge sanctions against U.S.

BEIRUT (Agencies) -Hardliners targetted by U.S. President Bill Clinton's recent decision to freeze U.S.based assets of groups are urging Arabs and Muslims to impose their own economic sanctions on the United

In a Friday sermon at a lah, spiritual guide of the Hizbollah group, criticised Mr. Clinton's move against 12 groups and 18 individuals in the United States.

"America has declared war on Islam for the sake of Jews," Sheikh Fadlallah said, according to excerpts published Saturday in newspap-

"A!l Arabs and Islamic countries, organisations and individuals should promptly withdraw their assets in the United States." he added.

The appeal was apparently aimed primarily at Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Gulf Arab states with huge assets in U.S. treasury bonds and bank accounts.

Sheikh Fadlallah and Hizbellah, who both champion Iran's fiery brand of Shiite Muslim fundamentalism in Lebanon, were included in Mr. Clinton's sanctions. A militant Jewish group. Kach, was also on the list.

Mr. Clinton imposed the measures Monday, accusing the militant Arab factions of disrupting Middle East peace efforts by killing 52 Israelis in the last four months.

Sheikh Fadlallah said none of the Islamic factions or individuals targettd by sanctions maintains any U.S. bank account.

"I never in my life put a single cent in an American bank," he said, adding that Arab and Muslim nations should boycott U.S. goods they can live without.

Hizbollah's secretarygeneral, Hassan Nasrallah, said in a separate speech at a rally in south Beirut Friday south Beirut mosque, Sheikh that Arab and Muslim states Mohammad Hussein Fadlal- should draw up a boycott list of "American organisations and individuals known for their support of Israel."

Mr. Clinton ordered the sanctions after last Sunday's suicide bombing attack which killed 20 Israelis and wounded more than 60 north of Tel Aviv. Most of the victims were soldiers.

Sheikh Nasrallah said Israel should have been made to suffer sanctions for its July 1993 bombardment of southern Lebanon, in which 150 civilians were killed.

"All Arabs and Muslims, individuals, groups or states should stop placing funds at any American bank or institution because (America) is not a country that safeguards people's money ... and it betrays the trust." Sheikh Fadlallah said.

"We can invest our money in Europe and other countries." added Sheikh Fadlallah, one of 18 individuals in Mr. Clinton's list suspected of involvement in Middle

East "terrorism." When one looks at this decision he cannot but scoff at its because most of the groups and individuals mentioned do not have bank accounts in America as it is not trustworthy," the bearded black-turbaned cler-

### Amal chief warns of Ross sees good chance for peace progress

the year ahead, has a good chance to build on the positive advances made in 1994. If Israelis and Palestinians address security concerns, economic aid becomes more effective, and both sides build mutual confidence, says Dennis Ross, U.S. special Middle East coordinator.

Speaking January 16 to the New York Foreign Policy Association, Mr. Ross pointed to what he called the 'quite extraordinary' changes in attitude and concrete actions that made 1994 a "landmark" year in the Middle East. In order to carry that progress further in 1995, he said, the region faces broad challenges in three areas: Israeli/ Palestinian negotiations, Israeli/Syrian talks, and overall regional normalisation.

Mr. Ross stressed that the

progress made in 1994 has

not removed "all the vestiges

PLO aide

stalemate

in peace

process

By George S. Hishmeh

WASHINGTON (USIA)

of the Palestine Liberation

Organisation here told a

Washington audience Jan.

26 that the Middle East

peace process is at its

"lowest point" since the signing of the September

1993 Declaration of Princi-

ples accord between Israel

and the PLO at a White

Hassan Abdul Rahman

explained that in the wake

of recent Israeli policies.

particularly on the question

Bank, "average" Palesti-nians are losing faith in the

able process that trans-

forms the realities on the

ground they do not see why

they have to support it."
He said peace cannot be

achieved between PLO

leader Yasser Arafat and

Israeli Prime Minister Yit

he continued, will ultimate-

ly have to be between the

Israeli and Palestinian peo-

added, "we do not see at this end in Washington a

serious effort to correct the

deficiencies in this pro-

Acknowledging that the achievements to date in the

peace process are irreversi-ble, Mr. Abdul Rahman,

nevertheless, expressed

fear that if the present

stalemate continues, the

process may face "derail-

ment, if not stagnation."

lem to Israeli "vacillation"

as in the case of the settle-

ments and urged them to

take "a second look" at the

peace process. He recalled

it was the PLO understand-

ing that Israel recognised in

the Oslo agreement that

the process will lead in the

end to a two-state solution.

He said Prime Minister

Rabin missed an opportun-

ity after the Hebron mas-

sacre last February of some

30 Palestinians by an Israeli

zealot to deal with the set-

tlements issue which, at

present, is exacerbating the

ongoing negotiations.

He attributed the prob-

"Unfortunately," he

zhak Rabin alone, Peace

"Unless it becomes a vi-

of settlements in the West

House ceremony

The chief representative

decries

NEW YORK (USIA) — The Middle East peace process, in January 22 terrorist bombing in Israel as "a very clear reminder" of that,

> The more the opponents of the peace treaty see progress "the more desperate they become... to prevent the future from going forward." he said. "Our challenge is to over-

come them. Our challenge is to shape the new Middle East, to cement the new Middle East and assure the participants that we are beginning to see change actually have a chance to emerge and flourish and become institutional-

One of the major challenges in 1995 is for Israelis and Palestinians to see and feel tangible results from the compromises both have made Israel in hopes of gaining security and Palestinians in hopes of gaining control of the key economic and political decisions that affect their lives, Mr. Ross said.

"The Israelis are going to have to feel secure and the Palestinians are going to have to do everything they can to contribute to that," the ambassador said. "No one can expect the Palestinians to provide absolute security. What one has to see is not 100 per cent success, one has to see 100 per cent effort. "In the areas where the Palestinian Authority has

control, it has to do every-

thing it can to root out those

who threaten violence against

Israelis. The Palestinians, for their part, Mr. Ross said, have to see their political and economic life change, including the development of institutions, the rule of law, and elections. That will build the credibility of the Palestinian Authority in the eyes of the Palestinians and demonstrate that the process is moving forward

and they have a stake in the

For economic change in

peace process, he said.

the Palestinian territory, both the international donors and the Palestinians fare going to have to do better than they have done," he noted.

"Donors internationally are going to have to stream-line how they approach Palestinian assistance. We are going to have to do a better job of targeting the assistance, making certain it has an impact, responding to critical areas where change has to take place and assuring overall that Palestinians see and hear and are aware of the real impact of the assist-

But the Palestinians also have to do a better job, Mr. Ross said. "They have to remove the bottlenecks and make it possible for projects to get launched. They have to empower the people in the Palestinian Authority to make the decisions that make it possible for the assistance

### Amman workshop studies solutions to problems facing businesswomen

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on Saturday opened a three-day workshop on "project planning aimed at strengthening small enterprises and their employees' performances.

Economical expert Yousef Toumma told the workshop that there were four main obstacles facing women who want to establish their own enterprises or women who currently own small businesses. These included marketing, credit facilities, business counselling and legal matters and training. Eighteen representatives

of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), local institutions and semigovernment institutions have been divided into four groups to tackle the four major

"The participants will discuss in the next two days

standing as an obstacle for women in their enterprises. and come up with solutions." a UNIFEM spokeswoman told the Jordan Times.

By and large some of the problems are common to both men and women entrepreneurs, but women faced more difficulties than men while tackling them.

The participants reviewed a list of obstacles facing women operating or trying to establish a new business. In marketing, women en-

terpreneurs faced unfair competition, limited creativity, improper business location, mobility constraints, negative market climate, and lack of adequate information. Credit problems facing

women include collaterals requested by lenders, lack of confidence in women and the lack of the "cultural courage" to have separate bank accounts or significant savings, lack of adequate capital to develop a project, and women's lack of awareness these problems that are concerning sources of finance

Five planeloads of Indian-donated

and banking procedures.
In the training sector, participants discussed the shortcomings in available training services and long training courses which does not suit entrepreneurs.

In legal matters, the obstacles cited as facing women included rules and regulations, customs duties levied on intermediate goods. licensing procedures which may be costly and time consuming, lack of clear classification of enterprises, and rigid interpretation of laws by

some officials. At the end of the three-day meeting, the participants will list suggested resolutions to these problems and set up the agenda for UNIFEM activi-

ties for the year 1995. Established in 1976, UNI-FEM provides direct technical and financial support for low-income women in developing countries. It also funds activities that bring women's programmes which promote the inclusion of women in decision-making.

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Nateq Nuri says he could run for president

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iranian Parliament Speaker All Akbar Nated Nuri said he is willing to run for the presidency in the next election in 1997, the daily Salam reported Saturday. "If the Association of the Militant Clergy (AMC) nominates me, I will take on the job," the speaker told a religious group in the holy city of Qom in central Iran. "I am a member of the group and subservien to its decision." The AMC is an influential conservative political and religious organisation which has a say in the nomination of top officials in Iran. The group, close to the powerful merchant class of the bazaar, sidelined the Islamic hardliners from power in the last parliamentary elections in 1992 and presently dominates the country's legislative and executive branches. Mr. Nateq Nuri said however that the outcome of the next parliamentary elections in 1996 would have a "direct impact" on the presidential elections, scheduled for June 1997. He did not elaborate.

#### Qadhafi: Combining politics, religion is protane

CAIRO (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi ha attacked those who mix politics and religion, saying merging the two is profane. In a speech broadcast by Libyan state television Friday, Colonel Qadhafi cited Iran as a country that exploited religion for political purposes and said such actions lessen the meaning of religion. "God is remote from politics. The Koran is remote from politics," Col. Qadhafi said in the speech monitored by the BBC. "The angels have nothing to do with politics, and the day of judgment has nothing to do with politics. If you merge religion into politics it no longer remains religion. It becomes a profane action. He was addressing local leaders in Al Khum on the Mediterranean coast. It was unclear what prompted Col. Qadhafi's attack. He has criticised Islamic extremists in the past - once calling Muslim radicals part of a U.S. plot to control the Arab World - but he also declared Islamic law to be the basis of Libya's legal system.

#### 'Alexander the Great buried in desert temple'

CAIRO (AFP) - Greek archaeologists have found two documents at a temple in Egypt's western desert saying that Alexander the Great was buried at the site, antiquities officials said Saturday. Abdul Halim Nureddin, chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation, went to the temple of the oracle of Ammon in the Siwa oasis, 750 kilometres west of Cairo, to examine the claims, officials at his office said. The temple was built in 1100 BC according to a report in Saturday's edition of the government daily Al Ahram. However, Jean-Pierre Corteggiani of the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology was sceptical about the theory, saying the Egyptian press frequently claimed the tomb of the Macedonian conqueror had been found. "All the texts we have show that Alexander was buried in Alexandria and Roman emperors passing through regarded it as their duty to pay homage," he told AFP. George Kypreos, head of the Greek cultural centre in Alexandria, also said he had "no information yet that the tomb of Alexander the Great has been discovered at Siwa." Alexander the Great, who was crowned in the Temple of the oracle Ammon in 330 B.C. after conquering Egypt in 333 B.C., died in Babylon in 323 B.C. at the age of 33 and his body was brought to Egypt for burial.

#### Lockheed pleads guilty of bribery

ATLANTA (AP) - Aerospace contractor Lockheed

Corp. pleaded guilty Friday to bribing an Egyptian legislator and was fined \$24.8 million for violating the federal Corrupt Practices Act. The move allowed Lockheed to avoid a trial the government said would have disclosed how the company paid about \$1 million to influence the sale of cargo planes to the Egyptian government. The charges concern a 1989 contract, valued \$79 million, for three C-130 Hercules transport planes. Calabasas, California-based Lockheed has a major manufacturing plant in suburban Atlanta, which builds the Hercules. The government accused Lockheed and some of its executives of using the influence of Leila I. Takla, a member of the Egyptian People's Assembly from 1987 to 1990, to pursuade Egypt to buy three C-130s in the late 1980s. While serving in the assembly, Ms. Takla, who previously had been a paid consultant for the company, continued to receive a retainer fee and do work for Lockheed, the government charged. Lockheed also was accused of covering up the relationship.

### Iran demands rapid shipment of rice

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has urged Thailand to speed up the shipment of 250,000 tonnes of rice it bought last October, Iran's official news agency IRNA said Saturday. The request was conveyed to the Thai Commerce Ministry by the Iranian embassy in Bangkok on Friday, it said. Tehran purchased the rice for an estimated \$75 million and a first shipment was to be delivered in November, according to Iranian sources. IRNA did not specify the crests, but said half of it had been paid in cash and the rest on credit. Iran produced 1.8 million tonnes of rice in 1994. but it still had to import 200,000 tonnes of the product from Thailand to meet domestic needs.

### New head of Air Algerie named

ALGIERS (AFP) — National carrier Air Algerie named Hamed Bencherchali as its new managing director, news reports said Saturday. Mr. Bencherchali replaced Chakib Bellili, who was dismissed Tuesday along with other senior officials in the wake of the Dec. 24 hijacking of a French Airbus at Algiers airport by fundamentalist guerrillas. A retired colonel. Mr. Bencherchali was director of external relations at the Defence Ministry. A commission of inquiry in the hijacking, which led to the deaths of three passengers as well as the four attackers, concluded that grave negligence on the part of senior aviation and security officials had been a factor in the incident.

#### relief supplies destined for Iraq The majority of the sup-plies are medicines for chilfering from diseases related to malnutrition and a "large number of deaths" reported

By Cathy King Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - The first of five shipments of emergency medical supplies from India will be dispatched to Iraq today from Amman, India Humanitarian Initiative (IHI) Chairman and Member of Parliament John Joseph said Sunday.

The first consignment consisting of about 26 metric tonnes - three truck loads of "life-saving medicines" was due to arrive on a Royal Jordanian flight from Bomhay Sunday evening. Trucks arranged by Iraq would carry the cargo by road to Baghdad, said Mr. Joseph, who is also a member of the National Commission for Minorities in India.

Member of Parliament Sheikh Mohammad Lal Jan Basha and journalist George Varghese, both members of IHI. will accompany Mr. Joseph and the cargo of 15 types of medicine conated by 25 pharmaceutical companies to Bazhdad.

The medicine will be handed over to the Iraqi Ministry of Health for distribution, Mr. Varghese told the Jordan

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

dren, those used for anaesthesia and even threads for stitching after surgery. These items were identified as priorities during an Indian government delegation to Iraq last April, Mr. Varghese said.

Sheikh Mohammad, Mr. Joseph and Mr. Varghese were among the delegation sent as emissaries of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to secure the release of a young Indian from an Iraqi jail at that time, they said. "The sufferings of the peo-ple moved us," Mr. Varghese

said, adding that Sheikh Mohammad, during his visits to mosques in Baghdad, was approached by many pleading for assitance. Mr. Joseph said that on

return to India the delegation reported the "grave and pathetic" situation there to the prime minister. Upon the request of Mr.

Rao. the 51-strong IHI began parliament members and offi-The Indian team said more

than 400,000 Iraqis were suf-

collecting donations of medical relief. Mr. Joseph added. IHI is comprised of

daily are due to a lack of medicines and food. The three member team will be joined shortly by Members of Parliament

G.M.C. Balayogi, another IHI representative who was also among last year's delega-The initiative took six months to set up, during which time operations ceased temporarily because of a plague that swept some parts of

India in the summer, Mr. Joseph said. Following the resumption of arrangements, a further three months were dedicated to collecting medical supplies, he added.

Objections raised by the United States and Britain led the U.N. Security Council sanctions committee to disallow many items that the Iraqis need, Mr. Joseph said. These included bedding for hospitals, tyres and spare parts. soap, blankets, pesticides, electric lights, fishing nets, paints, nails and cooking utensils.

(Continued on page 7)

#### placed bids to build the required installation. according to Hussein Zaki Said assistant for health and environment affairs at the municipality. "The municipality is

seriously considering the composting and recycling system to reduce the hazar dous effects of waste at disposal sites." said Dr. Said adding that people residing near such sites complain of stench, water pollution and even noise from those areas.

Queen visit

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AMMAN (J.T.) - On 3

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geording to a Royal Court

Queen Noor was re-

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m Abdul Ilah Al Khatib.

French Ambassador to Jor-

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the director-general of the

Department of Antiquities.

with whom she discussed

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Queen Noor, said the

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which was established by

the Noor Al Hussein

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tre (JDTC) two years ago.

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Amman

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By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - The Greater

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companies have already

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According to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, more than 90 per cent of the solid waste in the country is deposited in locations underground al safe distances from towns. But the garbage dumps Russeifa, the site of

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by Dr. Man

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Thieves" at the Americ Lecture (in Arabic) en loone the Oil Giant in by Dr. Mar.

Abdul Hameed Shoms

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#### JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

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### St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfieb, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church. Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Aznassciation Tel.

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### Evangelical Lutheran Churck Tel: 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Salam Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel.675691. The Evangelical Local Church in Tcl. 811295

#### WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology.

Skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers and winds westerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly

Min-Max, temp. Amman	4713
Agaba	8/20

Yesterday's high temperatures; Amman 16, Aqaba 21 Homidity's readings: Amman 41 per cent, Aqaba 52 per cent. USEFUL

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN:

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Shtaiwi Abu Zayed	737962
. Khalil Al Tushq	615715
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Princesi Basma Hospital
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Ibn Al Nafees Hospital

Prosecus Hava Hospital ...... (03)314111

(02)272275 ... (02)247100

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

department at the Queen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be veri-ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1) .... Bangkok (RJ)

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

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Her Majesty Queen Noor on Saturday shakes she paid to the town to review development hands with children in Jerash, during a visit projects (photo by Crystal)

### Queen visits NHF centres in Jerash, looks in on tourism services, sites

AMMAN (J.T.) — On a routine visit to Jerash to review the progress of local handicrafts production and training centres, Her Majesty Queen Noor stopped at the city's archaeological sites and checked on the visitor's centre and other tourism services. according to a Royal Court statement.

Queen Noor was received by Minister of Tour-ism Abdul Ilah Al Khatib, French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet and the director-general of the Department of Antiquities, with whom she discussed ways to improve the conditions of archaeological sites and to better organise tourism reception facilities and the handicrafts zone, the statement said.

Queen Noor, said the statement, visited the Rimoun Weaving Centre, which was established by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC) two years ago : training and employment to help local women ac-

quire skills and training to generate income and improve their living conditions, while reviving traditional Jordanian hand-

icrafts. The JDTC introduced an important innovation at the centre - two-metre-wide looms, used to weave room-size carpets, previously absent from the Jordanian market. The profit-making centre has since become independent, and is locally operated and managed.

At the centre, the Queen congratulated the craftspeople for their innovative high quality products, which are marketed by the JDTC in Jordan and abroad, and appear in mailorder catalogues. Queen Noor also distributed certificates to graduates of the training course, the statement added.

Later, the statement said, Queen Noor toured the Jerash Handicrafts Centre, which provides opportunities in sewing,

weaving and embroidery to local women. Operated by the Jerash Ladies Benevolent Society, an independent non-governmental organisation, the centre is the largest employer in Jerash, contributing to the development of local families and to the preservation of a unique aspect of Jordan's national heritage.

The JDTC has been working closely with the centre since 1988 to assist in technical and management training, product development and both local and international marketing, which has expanded the centre's business by professionalising its operations, re-directing designs to make products more marketable, and opening up new markets.

Oueen Noor was received by the governor of Jerash. She was accompanied by members of the NHF Executive Commit-tee, Mrs. Noor Izzedine and Mrs. Subhieh Ma'ani. and the director of the JDTC, the statement said.

# Princess Basma opens workshop on gearing women towards political life

AMMAN (Petra) - Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday opened a threeday workshop to help women enter political life by urging women to participate in national political endeavours regardless of their modest ex-

Addressing the opening session, the Princess said that women can play a basic and important role in the political dimension of the national construction process and in the achievement of national

Princess Basma urged women to adopt attitudes and utilise other persons' experiences on the basis of concepts and ideas emanating from the Arab and Islamic culture.

She told the audience that women should benefit from the present and other similar workshops in order to better deal with political issues in

the future. David Burton, director of the British Council in Amman, which organised the

workshop in cooperation with the National Committee for Jordanian Women's Affairs, addressed the meeting stressing that Jordan was at the forefront among countries that respect women's freedom.

He said the present workshop serves as an opportunity for the exchange of views and experiences among the parti-

Leslie Abdullah, head of a working group for change in the United Kingdom, said that the meeting will discuss how women's voices will be heard on the political scene. She said the past decade

witnessed a resurgence of women's participation in the political domain in western Europe and North America. The participants to the

workshop will learn how to give successful interviews to the media, how to induce change in society and communicate ideas, and how to present short speeches.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma advise women on how to prepare for opens a three-day workshop designed to political involvement (Petra photo)

### Text of Jordan-PNA trade agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following is a translation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on trade.

In implementation of the General Agreement signed by the Jordanian government and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) on Jan. 26, 1995, the two sides agree on the following. Article one:

A) In reaffirmation of their commitment towards working within the principle of free trade to ensure the flow of goods and services between them, including agricultural products, and with a view to achieving that goal, national goods will be exempt from customs duty and all other fees and taxes when they are exchanged between the two parties, with the exception of the sales tax which is imposed in Jordan and the value added tax imposed by the Palestine National Authority.

B) To achieve that goal the two sides will meet every six months to agree on lists of goods to be exchanged between them under paragraph (A), with a view to increasing the number of items in this category gradually until complete liberalisation of trade between the two sides is achieved.

C) The two sides will facilitate the exchange of national commodities and services without exception, to include all commodities in paragraph (B), on condition that they be subjected to taxes still levied on them by either side.

Article two: The two sides will set up a joint ministerial committee to follow up the implementation of the agreement and endorse detailed measures to be applied in matters concerning trade and customs tariffs for the purpose of facilitating the goods and services to and from either side. The services will include expertise and required cadres involved. The committee is to meet at least once every three months or whenever the need arises. Article three:

Upon the signing of this agreement the two sides will form teams of experts to study the procedures that will enable the various articles to be implemented, taking care not to impinge on the rules in force by Jordan and the PNA. The experts will submit a report on their work to the joint committee for endorse-

Article four: In view of the importance of transit trade to the two sides, the parties agree on the necessary procedures to facilitate and organise transit trade by land, sea and air, in accordance with a transit agreement that will be

reached between them. The two sides will give due importance and urgency to the matter of reconstructing bridges on the Jordan River between the West Bank and Jordan to facilitate transit

Article five: With regard to agricultural products:

a) The committees formed by the two sides will work out a timetable for the exchange of these products.

b) The Jordanian government will facilitate the export of Palestinian agricultural products through Jordanian territory under the transit deal. Article six:

The two sides will start conducting economic, technical and legal studies and organise the joint free zone in the Jordan Valley for the purpose of storing and marketing different products produced or manufactured by either side.

Article seven: The two sides agree to secure part or all the requirements of oil products needed by the Palestinian side under a bilateral protocol to be organised by the PNA and the Jordanian Ministry of Energy and Mineral Re-

sources and the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company. Article eight:

The two sides agree to secure part of or all the requirements of cement and iron used in construction needed by the Palestinians in accordance with arrangements to be agreed on by Jordan and the PNA.

Article nine:

The two sides agree to begin a study on linking the power grids of the two sides. Article ten:

This agreement is to be applied on trade exchanges between Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Article eleven: Upon endorsement by both sides, this agreement will go into effect immediate-

The agreement was signed by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb for Jordan and PNA Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ahmad Qoureia.

perience I refuse to see a situation in which suspicion is

### Amman municipality to build solid waste management plant

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Greater Amman Municipality plans to establish the country's first solid waste management plant, and several companies have already placed bids to build the required installation, according to Hussein Zaki Said, assistant for health and environment affairs at the municipality.

"The municipality is seriously considering the composting and recycling system to reduce the hazardous effects of waste at disposal sites," said Dr. Said, adding that people residing near such sites complain of stench, water pollution and even noise from those areas.

According to the Minis-try of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, more than 90 per cent of the solid waste in the country is deposited in 24 locations underground at safe distances from towns. But the garbage dumps Russeifa, the site of many public complains, are severely affecting the environment and polluting the air, according to environmentalists.

ate two types of recycling. One, he said, is processing organic material, the other is recycling solid waste materials.

Jordan Times.

gical cycle," he added.

glass, plastics, papers and metal.

Dr. Said said that the. proposed project will oper-

The project will be able to process about 600 tonnes daily of organic material which will be applied as compost to some of the land in the desert areas and some greenlands in the city," Dr. Said told the

"This operation will produce cheap fertilisers which will be used to enrich the soil and support the environment and the ecolo-The second process, he said, is recycling mainly

According to Dr. Said, this project is part of the Jordanian government's plans to fight off deserti-

According to Dr. Said, final bidding will be on March 1. Dr. Said said the munici-

pality has discussed financial backing of the project with the private sector and government officials. "This project will improve the hygienic and en-

vironmental standard of the land," he said. According to Dr. Said, the project is expected to serve Amman, Russeifa, Zarga and about 13 or 14 populated areas around the

greater Amman. Dr. Said told the Jordan Times that the municipality is considering building a toxic waste disposal plant, after the completion of the

recycling project.
"Peace has brought with it new demands, such as the improvement of industry, which in turn will bring increased demand on industrial waste management," Dr. Said said.

"We are trying to plan early to prevent environmental and water pollution in the coming years," he

# Excerpts from deputies speeches in Parliament

that the Palestinians live free-

ly in their independent state.

There are Jordanians of

Palestinian origin, and there

are Palestinians of Jordanian

origin. There is no contradic-

tion in this matter. This gov-

ernment is called on to

emphasise and underline the

points in common for Jordan

and Palestine since we be-

lieve that the Jordanian-

Palestinian relationship is of

a unique nature and should

give the people freedom to

choose their future life.

However, it is impossible to

separate between the two and

end the ties that bind them

together. Jordan's private

sector's ability to deal with

the Israeli economic and

technological might does not

depend only on security as some people believe, but

rather on psychological sta-

bility for the citizens as well

as stable economic legislation

with minimum interference

on the part of the state. The

country needs to have the

ability to transform its eco-

nomy from a domestic eco-

nomy into a regional eco-

nomy, relying on personal initiatives. And it needs to

eliminate corruption.

favouritism and dereliction

and achieve a genuine ba-lance between the rights of

the consumers and the rights

of the investors. We expect

from the present government

to rebuild the middle class

and widen its base. This can

help solve the poverty and

unemployment issues and en-

sure social security which is

affected by these two issues.

Do not be misled by the

manifestations of wealth

around you; these reflect an

ill-distribution of wealth

rather than a reflection of the

real power of the economy.

The election law is basic in

any democratic parliamen-

tary system, and I demand

that the government work

out a new, modern election

law, facilitating the process of

elections. We need a new law

ing are excerpts from speeches made by some deputies while debating the policy statement of the government of Sharif Zeid Ben

Having read the govern-

Taher Masri

(Independent — Amman)

ment's policy statement I found that it was not different from those submitted to Parliament by successive governments since 1989. Indeed many of the programmes and plans are very similar or even identical in nature. All the previous government state-ments referred to combating corruption and bureaucracy and to carrying out public administration reforms, dealing with poverty and unemployment and building institutions to ensure the rule of law. But where do we stand vis-a-vis these bright slogans? I hope that the government will succeed in dealing with these issues because the real test for the government is in implementing the big slogans. In his present government the prime minister shoulders a heavy responsibility, but he has sufficient eligible members who can help put matters right and pave the ground for Jordan to enter the 21st century with confidence. The present government is expected to confront the requirements of the peace treaty and its challenges. We can not deal with any crisis, especially in relation to Arab states, neither will we ever have political or economic weight, except by building a modern state with new concepts and practices, and with the will to execute resolutions and decisions. We should not accept any government that tends to fall back on traditional systems that aim at ensuring daily business only. I would like to tell the government that the feeling of injustice and political stability displayed by a large sector of the Jordanian public can only reflect negatively on the national economy and have a ruinous

effect on the social structure.

The past two years have wit-

nessed a retreat in the gov-

ernment's commitment to

basic public freedoms and the

AMMAN (J.T.) - Follow- other requirements for democratic transformation in Jordan. The most important manifestation of this retreat is the encroachment on citizens' rights to free expression which was done through the official and media practices that have presented opposite views as ones stemming from enmity. These governments have considered praise and support for the official policies of the state as the only criteria of demonstrating patriotism. These governments should have considered the opposition a healthy phenomenon for the benefit of the country and a basic component of the democratic process. The new government is called on to adhere to its policy statement which spoke of respect of basic freedoms giving the Jordanian citizens the right to explicitly voice their ideas, and to open the official media to the opposition's views. This commitment should be regarded as the criteria by which the government can be judged as truly committed to

democratic transformation. In the peace era Jordan will be facing the most dangerous stage as yet and requires and must have a clear vision. Courage displayed in peace making is not enough, and might be leading towards suicide, unless backed by policies that benefit from past lessons and unless measures are taken towards ensuring the biggest possible gains from the peace treaty. This government is called on to be clearly committed towards containing the negative aspects of the peace treaty. It is called on for instance to refrain from displaying excessive and naive optimism over the normalisation process. Being the inheritor of the Great Arab Revolt, Jordan should rely on "the Arab dimension" which should be regarded as the backbone of the Jordanian official and public policies. Jordan's Arab and Islamic identity should rise above all the treaties and should remain as the strongest commitment of all others. The phenomenon of regionalism which has started to take root in Jordan's society contradicts with the principles of the Great

that relies on new criteria and Arab Revolt. Palestine will continue to be the pulse of aimed at consecrating and Jordan. Since the very beginpromoting the democratic ning, Palestine has served as process and equality and national unity. a trust in the heart and conscience of the Jordanian people. The Palestinians are de-Mohammad Daoudieh manding a strong and inde-(Independent-Tafileh) pendent Jordan, and the Jordanians are demanding

I believe that the present government could have secured parliament's confidence even without including members of parliament in it. The government of Abdul Salam Majali won a vote of confidence without having a single deputy because, according to the Constitution, an absolute majority of 41 votes is enough for confidence. However I believe that Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has chosen deputies in his government on the basis of efficiency and trust in the legislative authority and a show of good faith in the relationship between the legislative and executive authorities. In observing the reactions to the present government set-up, I found that part of the cabinet came about as a result of an objective choice, but regrettably the other part came as a result of pressure. We as deputies should take a clear-cut stand with regard to this issue, lest the phenomenon spreads. We should underline the importance of participation and sharing in shouldering the responsibility. A parliament acting with integrity and fairness is a sacred trust in our hands and we should ensure the protection of the traditions of the House. I raise my hat in respect to the Islamic Action Front deputies who will withhold confidence in the government for objective reasons of their own. I also greet other deputies who will follow suit because they are not doing this for personal reasons or blackmail. It would have been more beneficial for the Kingdom and its national unity to see IAF and leftist members taking part in the government as ministers. I believe that the national democratic opposition is keen on participating

in shouldering the responsi-

bility and in cementing the

national front and ensuring

the country's stability. Speak-

ing from my own bitter ex-

thriving, nor a situation in which some try to present the opposition to the government as an opposition to the regime and the throne. A parliament without opposition is a corpse. Lack of opposition could lead to hypocrisy and political opportunism, which entails grave damage to public interests. Alienating par-liamentary and political opposition is pre-meditated murder of the idea of reform and a drive towards rebellion. We admit that the government's task is of paramount importance and we do not accept a situation in which we see the government failing in its duty. Peace is an aspired goal for all peoples. But peace that does not end criminal occupation of the West Bank, Southern Lebanon and the Syrian Heights is not a real peace. There can be no peace under the sword and in an atmosphere of murders and arrests.

Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh (Independent, Madaba)

The way I see it, the present parliament is facing a difficult situation since its performance falls far below expectations. We are a legislative authority whose mission is to enact laws and monitor government performance and participate in the establishment of a state ruled by law and institutions. But unfortunately each deputy seems to be concerned with providing more services and more gains for his or her district. Since we represent the whole nation, our objective should be to serve all regions and all citizens and seek to give more attention to less developed areas. We are faced with the question of pressure being exerted on us by the public concerning appointments to government posts. These pressures coming from our own districts continue to embarrass us, as they mean our begging the concerned ministers to give work to people in different fields, even as night guards, drivers or messengers. These pressures have caused the deputies humiliation in front of

(Continued on page 7)

### WHAT'S GOING ON

### THIRD JORDANIAN DRAMA FESTIVAL

Who Are Hearing) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

☆ Film entitled "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" at the American Center at 5:00 & Exhibition of abstract art by Mohammad

### LECTURE

🖈 Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "Will Iraq Become the Oil Giant in the Region in the 1990s?" by Dr. Mamduh Salameh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at & Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist 6:00 p.m.

### FOOD BAZAAR

🌣 Food bazaar (including cakes, maftool, pickles, labaneh and zaatar, lemonade, and orangeade, and others) at Al Ahliyyah School, Jabai Amman on Sunday (11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.).

### **EXHIBITIONS**

🛱 Play (in Arabic) entitled "Ya Sam'een" (Ye 🜣 Exhibition of pastel, watercolour, oil paintings and photography by Jordanian artist Maral Mahredjian at the Watani Sporting Club, Amman.

> ☆ Photographic exhibition entitled "To Be or " Not to Be - Industry Destroys Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Labadi at Alia Art Gallery.

☆ Exhibition of Children's works (from Haya) Centre drawing and painting classes) at Goethe Institute. ☆ Exhibition of works by Iraqi artist Fakhir

Muhammad at the Ab'ad Art Gallery. Amin Al Basha at Darat Al Funun. Also showing another exhibition entitled "Phase II-Doors and Windows" by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh and works by con-

temporary Arab artists. ★ Exhibition of works by Spanish artist Covadonga Sarragua at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

President Sixto Duran Ballen declared a national state of emergency and military mobilisation after a series of clashes with Peru along a long-disputed stretch of Amazon border.

In a nationwide broadcast late Friday, Mr. Duran Ballen accused Peru of attacking Ecuadoran border outposts and said fighting had been taking place "all day" in the region.
"In accordance with my

responsabilities towards the country and the people of Ecuador and in line with Ecuador's unswerving com-mitment to peace, I was forced to declare a national state of emergency and mobilisation in a decree that was signed today by the govern-ment." Mr. Duran Ballen

At the same time Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori flew to the town of Tumbes. about 50 kilometres from the border, where Peruvian forces have set up their command post, officials in Lima

They said Fujimori discussed the situation with senior. military commanders there. There were no further de-

Peru and Ecuador have

rich region along their border for more than 50 years, with the last major outbreak of fighting occurring in 1981.

The latest troubles began with Peruvian reports that an Ecuadora helicopter attacked a border post inside Peru late Thursday, and Ecuadoran charges that Peruvian troops attacked forces inside its territory the same day.

Ecuadoran officials said one soldier had been hurt when Peruvian forces attacked an Ecuadoran border post early Friday. There had already been

two incidents in the region earlier this month.

Mr. Duran Ballen, who appeared on television flanked by parliamentary speaker Heinz Moeller and Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel Macias, accused Mr. Fujimori of ordering the Ecuadoran army to "be removed from Ecuadoran terri-

And he warned that if Peru's forces continued, it would provoke a "large-scale confrontation" between the two Andean nations.

He said that Peruvian attacks had occurred in the regions of Cueva De Las Tallos and that the military detachments of Teniente

QUITO (AFP) - Ecuadoran disputed the oil and mineral Ortiz and Etsa had been fighting "all day."
"Our armed forces have

stood firm in accomplishing their sacred mission and have earneo the faith and the affection of the entire people," he said. There was no immediate

official reaction in Lima to the emergency declaration. But former U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar, who is running for the Peruvian presidency, ac-cused Ecuador of aggression and called on the government to take firm action against its northern neighbour.

Peru and Ecuador both rushed reinforcements to the border area and the violence prompted international efforts to begin a dialogue on the dispute.

In Lima, the Peruvian High Command earlier denounced Ecuador's "aggression" and said its forces had been ordered to refrain from crossing the border or taking actions that would escalate tensions.

A military source in Peru said hundreds of troops were flown to Tumbes on civilian and military aircraft Friday. General Jose Villamil, Ecuador's army chief of staff, said reinforcements had been sent to the border area.

> The United States expressed "deep concern" Friday over the flareup of tensions along the border between Peru and Ecuador, and urged both sides to resolve the dispute through negotiations.

The area where the fight-

ing flared is a stretch of bor-

der along the Condor Moun-

tain range that was the object

of a 1942 agreement reached

in Rio De Janeiro, under

pressure from the United

States, following a 1941 Peru-

vian invasion of the region.

gave international recogni-

tion to some territories ac-

quired by Peru during its

invasion of Ecuador in 1941.

Quito rejected the pro-

tocol, which cost it 200,000

square kilometres (77,225

square miles) of land, in 1960. The losses included a

Pacific coastal province, an

area in the mountains includ-

ing the town of Jaen, and a

large area in the Amazon River

Ecuadoran maps still show

The four guarantors of the

the disputed areas as part of

accord — the United States,

Brazil, Argentina and Chile

— issued a statement from

Brasilia late Friday calling on

both governments to resolve

their differences peacefully. The head of the Organisa-

tion of American States.

Cesar Gaviria, also appealed

to the two sides to reopen a

dialogue and said he would

travel to the region this

weekend to try to mediate a

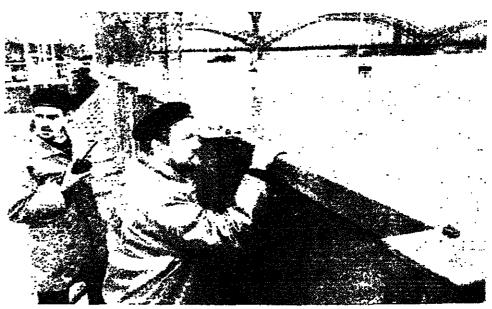
the national territory.

The 1942 Rio protocol

"We understand that isolated fighting has (taken) place." State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said.

"The developments are of deep concern to us and we believe to others in the hemisphere.... We call on both sides to put an immediate end to the localised flareups and to initiate a dialogue to resolve their differ-

The United States, as one of the guarantors of a pro-tocol signed between the two countries on the disputed land, has renewed its offer of mediation," Ms. Shelly said.



Two firemen look over a dam wall which was erected to keep off waters of the Rhine River in Cologne (AFP photo)

### Floods create havoc in Europe

largest cities in northwest Europe were damaged by flood waters Saturday as torrential rain swelled rising rivers already bursting their banks after a week of bad weather.

Large parts of western Germany, northern and western France, Belgium and

In Germany the Rhine flooded parts of the old town of Cologne, forcing people to use rivercraft for transport in parts of Bonn, and immobilised more than 100 boats in Dusseldorf and Neuss.

cause havoc in northern and western France, in Paris the level of the Seine, which has already flooded quayside roads and stopped boat traffic on the river, reached 4.5 metres (almost 15 feet).

Friday at Caen, western France, in his flooded caravan, bringing the French bad weather toll to 12 killed.

heart of the city, which was closed to all but river traffic

They could not, however. stop hundreds of people coming to watch the spectacle. The crowds, lambasted by the popular press Saturday morning for impeding de-sperate attempts to set up flood barriers, watched as the rescue services worked in

The number of people directly affected by the floods in the city of 958,000 inhabitants was estimated at between 15,000 and 20,000.

By Saturday morning the Rhine had risen to 10.2 metres (33.6 feet), only slightly below the 100-year record set during the floods of Christmas 1993 that caused extensive damage in the city.

In several other parts of Germany roads were cut off. The chaos has already led one senior politician, Joachim Hoerster, of the ruling CDU/CSU coalition, to criticise the federal authorities for failing to do more to stop the flooding.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel announced that financial help would be given to the flood victims, although he did not promise direct aid to those affected. In the Netherlands, the

flooding village after village in the southeast of the country. Authorities in Maastricht evacuated an underground car park of the provincial government building where the European Union treaty was signed because of expected flooding.

The towns of Borgharen and Itteren were cut off by the river and the only means of transport was by boat. Downstream, the villages of Susteren and Stein were

In Roermond and Venlo, teams of soldiers, firemen and volunteers filled sandbags to strengthen improved dykes along the Maas. In Belgium the southeast

Ardennes region faced major flooding with forecasters predicting more rain. A bridge over the Meuse at

Maaseik, near the Dutch border, was closed to traffic Saturday due to flooding and the situation was critical in several towns, including Dinant where 100 elderly people had to be evacuated from their homes. Firemen worked furiously

in that town to bring drinking water to residents and help them drain water rising dangerously in basements.

Trains were still working in the area but most were delayed.

### TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan cas-

island from South Africa, local newspapers reported Saturday. The officials who found the carvings Friday said the bundle was smuggled into the southern port city of Kaohsiung from Johannes-burg via Singapore some 15 days ago, but nobody had claimed it so far, two local evening newspapers said: But the dead also included Taiwan banned the import of Ivory in 1989 but private environmental groups say the

> Help wanted: Slithering vipers

illicit trade continues.

COLOMBO (R) — A Sri Lankan hospital has made a public call for 20 slithering vipers for an experiment. Dr. Ariyarani Ariyaratnam of the General Hospital in Colombo has asked the public to provide 20 vipers so she can conduct experiments for a new antidote for victims of poisonous snake bites. The island newspaper reported Friday that she said the present drug from India was not suited to treat victims in Sri Lanka, which has a high death rate from snake bites. The newspaper said there were eight deaths from snake bites per 100,000 people in Sri Lanka. Dr. Ariyaratnam said Colombo and Oxford Universities were jointly trying to find a new drug to

#### Daisy loses tusks to ivory thieves

treat snake-bite victims.

JOHANNESBURG (R) -Ivory thieves with hacksaws cut the tusks off a tame elephant in a South African game park, state radio said Wednesday. It said the 13year-old elephant, Daisy, had suffered no ill effects from the theft. The thieves cut about 25 cm (10 inches) from each tusk without hitting the

#### Britons biggest bra buyers

PARIS (AFP) - British women are Enrope's biggest bra buyers while German men buy the most underpants, according to figures published Friday by the International Lingerie Show opening here Saturday. Germans and Britons also buy the most knickers, with 139 million and 135 million pairs bought respectively in 1993, while Frenchwomen purchased only 111 million.

by the police.

Holland were under water. pouring rain.

As floods continued to

A man was found drowned

European weather forecasters predicted more heavy rain would hit some of the worst affected areas over the weekend and would last until the middle of next week. In Cologne more than 400

people, watched by crowds of onlookers, battled in vain to stop the floodwaters breaching temporary de-

MOSCOW (Agencies) — In

a somber ceremony, survi-

vors of the Auschwitz con-

Emma Grossman, 69,

sighed heavily as she turned away from a vivid film clip of

rows of mutilated children's

corpses. "That could have

Grossman was among the

5.200 survivors of the camp freed when shocked Soviet

soldiers opened the Au-

schwitz gates on Jan. 27, 1945

in the Polish town called

Hundreds gathered in a

central Moscow threatre to

commemmorate the

anniversary, including camp

survivors, relatives of camp

victims and Soviet soldiers.

77. recalled the liberation

from the other side.

Nearby, Meyer Sholkover,

"I couldn't imagine what

these people had been

through," said Sholkover, a

Ukrainian Jew who served in

the Soviet army and partici-

pated in the Auschwitz li-

been me," she said.

Oswiecim.

Maas River rose steadily, Survivors, soldiers mark Auschwitz liberation

been killed earlier in World War II by Nazis in Ukraine. Dictator Josef Stalin and his inner circle in Moscow

centration camp marked the 50th anniversary Friday of were aware there was a huge the liberation of the camp Nazi concentration camp alongside members of the where Jews were being Soviet army who liberated slaughtered in the town the Germans called Auschwitz But they didn't tell the Soviet generals.

The Soviet soldiers were stunned to discover not a quiet Polish town but thousands of starving and tortured prisoners, some barely able to move.

Organised by the Moscow Holocaust Centre, Friday's ceremony included an exhibit of recently uncovered photos and explicit film footage of the camp following the li-

beration. Ms. Goldman said she couldn't watch the shots of mass graves and huge piles of human hair, even 50 years later.

Ilya Altman, director of the Holocaust Centre, said "we will always carry this pain with us."

Soviet prisoners of war also were in Auschwitz and they were considered traitors for being captured. Those who Friday

mourned the 1.5 million dead of Auschwitz remembered among them the tens of thousands of non-Jews, mainly gypsies and Roman Catholic Poles, who were murdered

The Auschwitz death camp was the key link in Nazi Germany's determination to wipe out European Jewry and about 90 per cent of those killed at the Auschwitz Birkenau complex were Jews brought there by cattle trains from throughout Nazioccupied Europe.

at least 70,000 non-Jewish Poles, including many Catholic priests subjected to horrific torture, and about 20,000 gypsies also viewed by Hitler's Germany as an inferior people.

Members of other religious

groups, including Protestants and Jehovah's Witnesses, were victimised as were people regarded as social misfits, such as homosexuals.

Nearly 20,000 Soviet prisoners of war also died in Auschwitz, more than half of them through starvation.

Polish authorities staged ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the camp's li-beration by Soviet troops as an "ecumenical" rather than predominantly Jewish event. That generated protests from Jewish activists who accused the government of in-

### Perry denounces Republican defence provisions

Defence Secretary William Perry denounced as "disturbing" and "dangerous" the Republican Contract with America plans for the nation's defence.

mand his resignation if they deem him to be doing a poor job. Mr. Perry said the Republican programme misstates the condition of the U.S. military, establishes an unneeded review commission, and threatens to devastate vital military accounts by wasting money on an un-needed missile defence sys-

The comments came as Republicans moved quickly on several fromth to put their stamp of disapproval on President Bill Clinton's military policies, covering everything from spending to the placement of U.S. troops under foreign commanders. Appearing before the

"I find it disturbing on several counts," Mr. Perry said. "It is not only wrong but I think a dangerous statement that misleads the American people and it may confuse potential aggressors." Mr. Perry labeled "deeply

review the nation's long-term defence needs. "I feel strongly that the

the responsibilities of the secretary of defence. Mr. Perry said. Establishing such a commission, he said. amounts to a vote of no confidence both in his ability and that of the National Security Committee to fulfill their responsibilities.

"If you find that I'm incapable or unwilling to meet those responsibilities, you should ask me to step down

Republicans on the committee at times sought to downplay the impact of the defence related contract pro-Rep. Floyd Spence, the

Perry said,

opposing foreign command of U.S. forces is less rigid than it appears.

interest.

And Mr. Spence said that a contract provision supporting a Star Wars-type missile defence system could come "later rather than sooner" if Congress identifies higher defence spending priorities. chairman of the Joint Chiefs

of Staff, told the committee that when vital U.S. interests are at stake or when the United States provides the bulk of a multinational force, a U.S. officer would have overall command. But Gen. Shalikashvili

added, "the president must retain the flexibility to place our units under the control of a competent foreign military The House International

Relations Committee, meanwhile, was preparing its portions of the contract for floor action. The committee. which was also considering the issue of foreign command of U.S. troops, accepted an amendment proposed by Rep. Lee Hamilton, the ranking Democrat on the panel, stating that the bill does not "derogate or limit" the president's authority as commander-in-chief.

And the House Appropriations Defence Subcommittee went to work on its own version of a \$2.6 billion emergency defence bill to make up for money spent in overseas missions in Haiti, the Gulf and elsewhere.

After a spring-like Thursday whiler is still far from bein 4more bod

World

TOKYO (AFP) - Four bodies were dug up Saturdas in a massive last-ditch search brough the rubble of the Kobe earthquake while the plight of nearly 280,000 renuces threatened to reach a point of hysteria.
Some 15.000 police and mops combed through rows of houses, reduced to ruins by quakes and fires, in their first joint operation as afterspocks continued to rock the port with a force of up to duce on the Richter Scale.

With a Siberian cold from moving in over the weekend. there was a sense of urgency among some of the homeless at 1.100 schools, parks and other shelters. "Although the Japanese are known for their disciplane, our nerves have been

racked by stress aimos beyond control." Kumhike Hasegawa said by telephone from Nagata, a working class district in the west of the city "Everybody in Nagata faces food problems." sand

the 52-year-old private school teacher. He said his house withstood the quake 11 day ago and fire but he wa speaking on behalf of 1.50 refugees at a local elementary "The city of Kobe sends is

relief goods once a day, in cluding just a rice ball for each one." Mr. Hasegaw said. "We have to go around by bicycle to buy foods at an store that has managed to

The death toll rose to 5,09 with the number of missin people corrected to 17 a police located nine who ha been unaccounted for. N survivors had been foun since a week ago when thre elderly were rescued mor

The State Meteorologica Agency said it had recorde

that an aftershock of up to si

cannot leave — the last per ple in Grozny, for differer reasons, are all waiting for

In the only part of centr just behind Minutka, group zero of round-the-clock Rr

by house. Where would I I've got nowhere else," s her sentences punc ated by the fierce crack nearby explosions. Vanova said she did : even bother going into the bunker anymore, althou

nostly Russians, are equalistic. "This is my houth is where I live," saisa Mikhailovna, 46, ywas born in Grown Per was born in Grozny. Peo are now so used to war 1

#### Vietnam, U.S. open liaison offices HANOI (AFP) - Vietnam "This is another step (in ceremony or flag raising until

and the United States Satur- relations). The signing repre- the office started business in day opened liaison offices in each other's capitals in their liaison offices," James Hall, Lunar New Year festivities first step towards diplomatic the new chief of the U.S. here. first step towards diplomatic

Peruvian troops and equipment are trans-

ported to Tumbes, Peru, near the border with

Ecuador to reinforce troops in the area after

clashes with the Ecuadoran army. Two clashes

relations in 41 years. U.S. and Vietnamese offisigned two key accords on the exchange of diplomatic properties and the settlement of financial claims which they said made the opening of the offices effec-

tape that went on sale Friday.

saving he would have jumped

in front of a bullet for his

former wife Nicole, whom he

cally that I did not commit

these horrible crimes. I loved

Nicole, I could never do such

a thing." Simpson says at the

beginning of the book I Want To Tell You.

could kill this woman? How can anybody say that? Don't

they understand that I'd

jump in front of a bullet for

front of a train to protect my

family, to protect any mem-

have taken Nicole from our

two little children.' I would

have taken myself out of their

lives, not Nicole out of their

The book is being pub-

Simpson has pleaded not

lished by Little, Brown and

Co and sells for about \$18.

guity to charges that he kil-

led Nicole Brown Simpson

and her friend Ron Goldman

on the night of June 12 out-

side her home in Los

In the book Simpson says

he believes the culprit will

eventually be caught. "I have

no doubt in my mind. It

might be five years from now, .

it might be 10 years from

The book, packed with col-

our photographs of the Simp-

sons and their children. Svd-

ney and Justin, ends on a

knew I was going to help find

the people who killed their

now. I have no doubt."

poignant note.

ber of Nicole's family?

lives," he adds.

Angeles.

icole? That I'd jump in

Trust me, I never would

"Hew could anybody say I

"I want to state unequivo-

is accused of murdering.

sents the establishment of the earnest on Feb. 3, after the liaison office, in Hanoi, said. The Americans have not fully moved into their new

office could become operational later Saturday, officials said.

premises here, although the

They added, however, that there were no plans for a

and TV pitchman, had harsh

words for Fave Resnick, the

author of a controversial

book, Nicole Brown Simp-

Simpson proclaims innocence in book LOS ANGELES (R) - O.J. mommy," Simpson says. Simpson, who gained fame Simpson proclaimed his innocence in a book and audio as a sportscaster, movie actor

> son: Diary Of A Life Inter-He described Ms. Resnick as a peripheral friend of

> "I know in my heart that the answer to the death of Nicole and Mr. Goldman lies somewhere in the world that Fave Resnick inhabited.' said Simpson. One of Simpson's laywers

asserted in court this week

that Resnick was a cocaine user whom Nicole Simpson had helped seek treatment. Simpson's trial on charges of killing his former wife, who was 35 years old, and Goldman, 25, was temporarily on hold Friday as Judge Lance Ito pondered

what the prosecution decried as "ambush" tactics. The prosecutors are enraged that Simpson's defenders are making references to witnesses they did not know

punishing defence lawyers for

Meanwhile, prosecutor William Hodgman, who was taken to a hospital with severe chest pains Wednesday night, was resting comfortably and was expected to be released over the weekend. His wife. Janice, told re-

porters she expected her husband to be back in court Monday Mr. Simpson, who has reportedly received a \$1 million

advance for the book, co-

now about what must have

been going through her head

authored by writer Lawrence On Nov. 21, 1994, I told Schiller, ponders in it what Sydney and Justin that I was was going through his former in jail and had been arrested wife's mind as she was being for the death of their mother. attacked in front of her home on the night of June 12. They told me they already 'I wonder what Nicole was knew. Some of their friends thinking at the end. I think had told them. They said they

The long-delayed opening of the offices marks the first

were reported in the last 24 hours with no

victims. Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran

government ties in 41 years since the United States shut its Hanoi consulate after the Communist government took control of northern Vietnam

when she realised what was about to happen to her.' The book and the audio tape were the result of many hours of interviews with Simpson by Mr. Schiller at the Men's Central fail in Los

since his June 17 arrest. The book and the 90minute tape were produced in response to some 300,000 pieces of mail received by Simpson in Jail.

The book contains both

Angeles, Simpson's home

letters of support and letters of dension. . In one usigned letter from California, addressed to "you scumbag and coward." the writer tells Simpson he should have shot himself in the white Bronco that his friend Al (A.C.) Cowlings drove on the now-famous slow-speed police chase seen

on television around the His lawyers have since insisted that his real intent was not to flee, but to visit his ex-wife's grave, where he planned to commit suicide and that his best friend, Al-(A.C.) Cowlings, who was driving the white Ford Bron-

co. saved his life. Simpson says of the bizarre event: "If it nadn't been for that Friday in June, that ride in my friend A.C.'s Bronco, I think many people would not have witnessed the desperate place I was in.

He credits Cowlings with bringing "my almost lifeless body back in his Bronco. I would never have survived that Friday if it had not been In reply to a question from writer in Boston about whether he also cries in pris-

on for Goldman, Simpson

says: "I feel badly for Mr.

Goldman's family. I feel his

family's hurt and pain but I

had nothing to do with his

death. To me he is like the

unknown soldier.

expresses

Deng

BEIJING (Agencies) — Senior Chinese leaders, in-cluding President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Li Peng, recently met with Deng Xiaoping, the official Xinhua News Agency said Saturday.

praised the country's leadership, expressing "happiness over the great achievements made by the people of the whole country under the leadership of the Party Central Committee with Jiang Zemin at the core in the

falls on Jan. 31.

Mr. Deng's youngest daughter Deng Rong said in a recent interview with the New York Times that her father's health was declining

course of reform and opening-up..." Xinhua said. Mr. Jiang and other leaders "extended cordial festival

# support for Jiang

China's ailing 90-year-old paramount leader reportedly

greetings to Deng" prior to the Chinese New Year, which

beration. "The ruin of the human body and spirit is such a terrible thing. I will never forget that sight."

## Sholkover's parents had

WASHINGTON (AP) -

Suggesting at one point that lawmakers should de-

The "contract" was drawn up by Republican candidates for the House as a campaign pledge prior to their sweeping victories last November. Now, it's become a series of working goals for the Republican-controlled Con-

House National Security Committee, Mr. Perry said language in the contract alleging that the military is slipping into a "hollow force" status of the late 1970s is irresponsible.

disturbing" a proposal in the contract to establish a special commission, composed mostly of Republicans, who would

proposed commission usurps

as secretary of defence," Mr.

committee chairman, said the provision in the contract

"This provision does not, I repeat, does not prohibit any U.S. president from placing U.S. forces under the command of the United Nations," Mr. Spence said. "It simply requires a president to certify to the American public that it is in our country's

Gen. John Shalikashvili,

Phone bill shocks Swedish woman

OESTERSUND, Sweden (AFP) — A Swedish woman was disappointed to find only her phone bill in the mail recently, but disappointment turned to horror when she saw she had been charged 15.8 million kronor (\$2.1 million). According to a quarterly bill sent to Galina Lamti of Oestersund, a small town in northern Sweden, she had made calls worth 12.5 million kronor (\$1.66 million), and had been charged 3.1 million kronor (\$413,300) in valueadded tax. To have accumulated such charges, Ms. Lam-ti would have had to talk non-stop for one-and-a-half years to a distant country like Brazil. The Swedish tele-

#### the error. Cellular phone saves man trapped in lift

phone company, Telia, has apologised to Ms. Lamti for

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — An international call on a cellular telephone helped save a chronically clans-trophobic man trapped in a lift in Johannesburg, the Daily Star newspaper reported Friday. When the lift shuddered to a halt prematurely, the unnamed 24-year-old man pressed the alarm but no help arrived, the report said. Fortunate enough to be carrying a cellular telephone, he called the only number he could remember in his panicstricken state - his mother's in Francistown, in neighbouring Botswana. His mother, identified only as Patricia, called the Star and asked for help. The Johannesburg Fire Department was alerted and freed the trapped man. His ordeal lasted several hours. but had he not had a telephone it could have been days — the building is closed until Feb. 1. Patricia said her son was so chronically claustrophobic that he could not stay indoors for any length of time and had been a "complete wreck" after his ordeal.

#### Taiwan seizes smuggled ivory carvings

toms officers have seized T:043 kilograms of ivory carvings smuggled into the reopen.

than 100 hours after th quake.

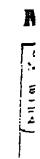
more than 1,250 aftershock since the big one, which mea sured 7.2. on the Richte Scale. A government pane on quake predictions sai

Grozny — a GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Chechen fighters here will di lather than leave and th civilians will die because the

Grozny still held by Cheche forces, stunned and hung dogs outnumber human And those who have live through a month of stre-fighting have resigned ther selves to dying in the deva tated place they call home Around the corner n neighbour was blown apar hat's how I could die, could happen to me at a moment, said Nadia Van Va, a 40-year-old ethnic Rr sian woman whose flat w

sian artillery shelling.
"Pil stay to the end. This

ber street has been shredd by shelling. "If I went ther would probably never contact up to my home. It's principle of it," she said. Other civilians left in shostly streets of Chech heid, southeastern Groz fatalistic upstans, are equi



NDAY, JANUARY B, k

#### Taiwan seizes smuggled ivon carvings

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arter house

TAIPHI R) - Taes Miers haven ಮಾರ್ಗರ್ smuggled ಪ್ರತಿ in and more South Alica 3 newkpapers fign. Softer Care Tine officel C ാനാ ine carving kg -und nor nundle was said million and a regiment postus? ALL 105.0002 from Johns nung von Singapore sas. dans dar but nobomit 고(교육) 20 H. 180 H. 180 보 evening newspapers s Turk an hanned the impli-- 1439 but prost ---- arrent 🚅 groups 🖼 --- :-- വും തമ**ന്ന**്

#### Help wanted: Slithering vipen

COLONSO (R) -A!

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Caraca nopular Color The about the public of vice i vipers so stri experiments it nea anndote for vicini The snake bills if - - - - wspaner rout -- the said the F Tom India The victors of a nich bas & E The from stake to cents from 95 Dr. Anyant - 1 min and 0th

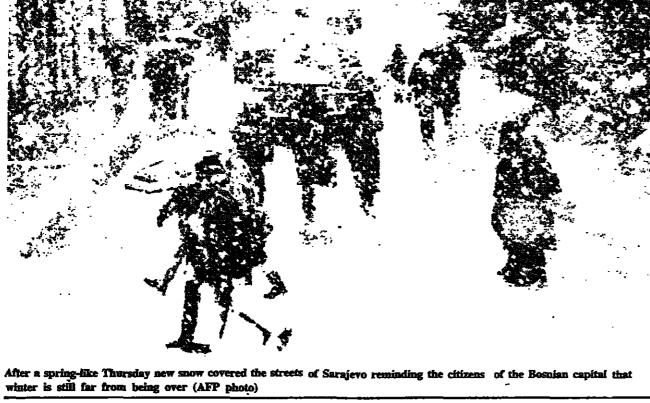
the services were in the state of the s ---- source victims Daisy loses tusks to lyory thieves COM ANNESSURG (N) भार्थ प्राथित स्थापी प्राथम

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Britons biggest bra buyers AFPI BIR

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back up to my home. It's the principle of it," she said. the most h Other civilians left in the the most fire coording to the second to the second to the second Linguist for the second Britons with the second the second to t ghostly streets of Chechenheld, southeastern Grozny, mostly Russians, are equally fatalistic. This is my house, this is where I live," said Raisa Mikhailovna, 46, who was born in Grozny. People and 129 form are now so used to war that



### 4 more bodies dug up from Japan quake ruins

TOKYO (AFP) - Four bodies were dug up Saturday in a massive last-ditch search through the rubble of the Kobe earthquake while the plight of nearly 280,000 refugees threatened to reach a

point of hysteria. Some 15,000 police and troops combed through rows of houses, reduced to ruins by quakes and fires, in their first joint operation as aftershocks continued to rock the port with a force of up to three on the Richter Scale. With a Siberian cold front moving in over the weekend.

there was a sense of urgency among some of the homeless at 1,100 schools, parks and other shelters. "Although the Japanese are known for their discipline, our nerves have been

racked by stress almost beyond control," Kunihiko Hasegawa said by telephone from Nagata, a working class district in the west of the city centre.

"Everybody in Nagata faces food problems," said the 52-year-old private school teacher. He said his house withstood the quake 11 days ago and fire but he was speaking on behalf of 1,500 refugees at a local elementary school.

"The city of Kobe sends in relief goods once a day, in-cluding just a rice ball for each one," Mr. Hasegawa said. "We have to go around by bicycle to buy foods at any store that has managed to reopen.'

The death toll rose to 5,090 with the number of missing people corrected to 17 as police located nine who had been unaccounted for. No survivors had been found since a week ago when three elderly were rescued more than 100 hours after the

The State Meteorological Agency said it had recorded more than 1,250 aftershocks since the big one, which measured 7.2. on the Richter Scale. A government panel on quake predictions said that an aftershock of up to six Architectural Institute of

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) -

death.

nearby explosions.

her street has been shredded

would probably never come



A couple walks past a collapsed house in Kobe city as residents recover from the massive

on the Richter Scale was About 74,000 buildings

and houses in Kobe have been destroyed or damaged, according to a regular bulletin from the National Police Police said earlier that

another 2,800 buildings in Kobe and its vicinity were still in danger of collapsing while landslides were seen possible at 71 points. Almost one in five build-

ings in central Kobe are beyond repair as a result of the quake, according to the city's official statistics. The ratio was more than 10 times the figure from last year's earthquake in Los Angeles.

The cost of reconstruction was estimated at 7.73 trillion ven (\$77 billion) by a private institute, DKB Research Institute Corp., while the Transport Ministry put damage to port facilities at no less than 500 billion yen.

Meanwhile, a published report said that negligence in following proper construction requirements had been responsible for bigger-thanexpected damage to buildings and highways.

Researchers at the

Japan, an academic body. found that more than 200 of the collapsed buildings had been built inadequately, with some main frames of office buildings illegally welded, the newspaper Mainichi said.

(AFP photo)

The world's longest suspension bridge, under construction between Kobe and nearby Awajishima Island. has been stretched by 1.1 metres (3.6 feet), public works officials said. The crust of the earth be-

neath the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge has shifted — 0.2 metres (0.7 feet) to the east on the Kobe side and 0.3 metres (one foot) to the west on the island side, said the "The foundation has

shifted, but there is no problem for the safety of the bridge," one official said. The 10-year construction work on the 3.910-metre

bridge started in 1988 at the cost of 480 billion yen (\$4.8 billion). Japan's Crown Prince

Naruhito and Princess Masako cut short their Middle East tour by two days and returned home Saturday due to their concerns about victims of the massive earth-

The royal couple, who started the tour three days after the quake devastated Kobe and its vicinity, told Japanese reporters upon their departure from Amman that they felt "sorry about leaving Japan after the disas-

"I express my sincere con-dolences for the quake-stricken people," the 34year-old prince was quoted by the Kyodo News Agency as saying. "I hope they will overcome their difficulties."

The couple has visited Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan since Friday last week on their second tour of the region. Japan relies heavily on oil supplies from the region. Since their marriage in

June 1993, the couple has travelled through Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko were scheduled to visit Kobe Tuesday to comfort quake victims. Meanwhile a team of U.S. disaster experts was to leave Washington Monday for Kobe, the White House said

fighting. We're waiting for

their ground troops," said a 26-year-old volunteer who

carried a World War II vin-

tage bolt-action rifle and

Another soldier, who also

would not give his name, said

the Russian artillery was

slowly levelling street after

street, but "even if they do

Uman Edilbyeko, a 42-

year-old frontline comman-

der, said he felt no hatred for

Russians and did not enjoy

fighting -- but for him death

and killing has also become a

see the Russian soldiers'

boyish faces. I'm sorry to kill

those 17 year olds, boys have

done half a year of military

service. But we are defending

stormed Grozny from the

west, north and east on New

Year's Eve. Chechen forces

say they "control" the south-

east quarter, but in reality

they are simply surviving in a

death zone of high explosives

Russian ground forces

our homes," he said.

"I've been close enough to

that, we won't leave."

fact of life.

would not give his name.

### Croatia's U.N. decision forces NATO to review Bosnia pullout plan

BRUSSELS, Belgium (Agencies) — Croatia's decision to ask United Nations peacekeepers to leave its territory has forced NATO to review urgently plans to pro-tect any U.N. withdrawal from Bosnia, officials said

NATO is being forced to consider whether its forces also would be needed to support a U.N. pullout from Croatia, said an allied official, who spoke on condition

of anonymity.
Military planners are also looking at whether the alliance can still rely on Croatian roads and ports in the event of a U.N. retreat from Bosnia.

On Friday, the Croatian parliament backed President Franjo Tudjman's decision that the peacekeepers should leave when their mandate ends in March.

The United Nations has kept an uneasy truce between Croatian troops and rebel Serbs for three years. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation has drawn up plans to deploy up to 45,000 troops for the protection of U.N. peacekeepers if they are forced to leave Bosnia. The plans rely on using Croatia's land routes and sea

Officials at NATO headquarters said they hoped Mr. Tudiman will cooperate during a withdrawal from Bosnia, even if he carries out his threat to end the U.N. mandate in Croatia. NATO is trying, in the

meantime, to reach agree-ment with the United Nations on who will pay for an eventual evacuation, NATO sources said talks last week in New York failed to find a

NATO has yet to put a price tag on the operation, but allied nations want the United Nations to finance all or part of the costs.

The nations contributing the most troops to the 24,000-strong U.N. force in Bosnia say they do not want to pull them out. But they asked NATO to draw up plans to escort the lightly armed peacekeepers if conditions become too dangerous.

The United Nations Saturday reported a lower level of shooting in Sarajevo despite a report that international mediators had suspended their peace mission because of ceasefire violations in the

Mediators from the "contact group" on Bosnia said they had been unable to get Bosnia's warring factions back round the negotiating table after the Serbs refused to drop their objections to the latest peace plan.

Envoys of the five-nation group - Russia, the United States, Britain, Germany and France — decided to leave Bosnia, diplomats in Saraievo said.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said serious violations of the ceasefire in Sarajevo had caused the mediators to suspend their

But a United Nations military spokesman said the level of firing incidents in the Serbbesieged city had fallen dramatically since the ceasefire came into force on Jan. 1.

Major Koos Sol confirmed that Serb and Muslim forces had clashed Thursday, the night before the mediators took their decision, and that at least one rifle grenade had

been found in the area.

But he said the U.N. in Sarajevo was now registering between 50 and 150 firing incidents a day in the city and on surrounding front lines compared with a daily average of between 2,000 and 3,000 before the truce took

However, a key stumbling block in the peace process remained the Serbs's refusal to accept the contact group's peace plan, which awards 51 per cent of Bosnia to the Muslim-Croat federation and 49 per cent to the Serbs, Ms. Shelly said.

The Muslim-led Bosnian government has accepted the

A senior Western official close to the contact group told Reuters in Bosnia: "We've gone back to our capitals to figure out what to do next. The Serbs weren't showing any inclination to give ground so we figured there was no point staying."

A major problem was that the Bosnian Serbs did not face a credible threat of military force from NATO to make them compromise in

'The Serbs just don't have a real incentive to move now. The problem is that there is no force in the equation. And I don't see any political will among the major powers for the use of force."

The contact group had been trying to persuade the Bosnian Serbs to accept a peace plan which would require them to give up a third of the territory they hold.

Elsewhere in Bosnia, the U.N reported less fighting around the town of Bihac, a U.N. "safe area" in the northwest. But the nerarby town of Velika Kladusa experienced "a medium level of fighting" Friday.
The U.N. said it had been

frustrated in its attempts to reopen the airport in the northern, Muslim-held city of Tuzla for use by U.N. milit-

ary flights. Major Sol said Serbs whose guns threaten the airfield had refused to give guarantees that they would not shoot at U.N. aircraft.

"The Bosnian Serbs are not willing or able to guaran-

tee the safe passage of our aircraft," Maj. Sol said. The Bosnian government has told the United Nations it

will take over the airport itself if it is not reopened. In London, British Lt.-Gen. Sir Michael Rose, the outgoing commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, said Friday that killing would break out

on an unprecedented scale if United Nations peacekeepers pulled out.

of the Left (PDS).

In the years just after

World War II, the PDS' for-

bears and the neo-fascists

were more inclined to shoot

each other than talk. But

several hundred delegates

greeted the PDS members

### Split hits climax in India's Congress Party

NEW DELHI (R) - The split within India's ruling Congress Party is reaching a climax with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao laying formal party charges against a lead-ing dissident, newspapers said Saturday.

The Disciplinary Action Committee (DAC) of the Congress Party late Friday served a formal "chargesheet" on former cabinet minister Ariun Singh suspended by Mr. Rao from

the party last Tuesday. Mr. Singh has been asked to reply to the chargesheet within four days, the newspapers quoted a Congress

spokesman as saying. Congress Party General Secretary Janardhan Poojary declined to divulge details of the chargesheet. DAC Chairman Vijaya

Bhaskar Reddy said the Congress Working Committee, the highest decision-making body of the party, need not ratify the decision taken by the DAC. "the decks seem to have

been cleared for Singh's expulsion from the Congress," the Asian Age newspaper said. The split within the party

grew wider Thursday as Mr.

Singh challenged Mr. Rao to call a special party meeting to discuss his complaints. Mr. Singh told reporters members of Congress's top forum should be allowed to

debate the issues he had raised. "Every party man must be given an opportunity to have his say on different issues,

Mr. Singh said. Mr. Singh quit the cabinet a month ago complaining Mr. Rao was ignoring minorities and being soft on corruption

within the party.

He has since become increasingly outspoken in his criticism of the government, providing a focus for dissent in the party and compounding Mr. Rao's problems.

prepared to back down on his stand on corruption. "Some people have swindled money in the scams... they should be punished," he said. "Why should the entire

Mr. Singh said he was not

party earn a bad name for Congress Party spokesman Madan Bhatia this week accused the former humanresource development minister of seizing on the party's recent electoral reverses to "advance his long-brewing

political ambitions. Mr. Bhatia said Mr. Singh was hurting the party's electoral prospects by creating disaffection in party ranks and damaging the image of the Congress in the public

#### Italy's hard right breaks with fascism party's debut congress in the legation from the former communist Democratic Party

FIUGGI, Italy (R) - Italy's right-wing National Alliance Party formally launched itself Saturday, completing a break with the neo-fascist legacy of the followers of wartime dictator Benito Mussolini.

The National Alliance became the main party on the hard right of Italian politics after its core group, the neofascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), was dissolved Saturday.

"We will consign to the judgment of history all the hatred and passions of the 20th century," Alliance lead-er Gianfranco Fini told the

Spa town of Fiuggi.
Mr. Fini, who also led the

MSI, scored an important victory Saturday when the party backed a document that declared its work complete and said it should give way to the National Alliance. The suave and ambitious

establish his democratic credentials in the face or the continued existence of the A mark of the new party's bid for respectability was the

attendance Saturday of fi-

gures from across the political spectrum, including a de-

Fini, 43, has laboured #5 vich polite applause as they arrived at the congress Satur-

day.
"The long, interminable post-war period ends today," Mr. Fini told the audience which included his main political ally, media mogul and former Prime Minister Silvio

### China rocket blast debris kills 6

The official Xinhua News

nationally televised di

had also been deadly.

BELJING (R) - A rain of until late Saturday that the southwestern Sichuan proiaming wreckag ttom a Chinese rocket that blew up during a satellite launch killed six people and injured 23, deepening China's trauma over its worst space disaster.

The spectacular explosion at dawn Thursday already had cast a pall over China's biggest holiday, the Lunar New Year Festival that begins Tuesday, and shocked space officials hoping to snare a bigger slice of the world launch market.

The public was not told

Agency's delayed reporting of the deaths likely reflected acute official anxiety about

the timing of the disclosure on the eve of the Year of the

Pig.
Xinhua said blazing wreckage of the powerful Long March 2E rocket and the advanced Apstar 2 telecommunications satellite it was carrying killed six people within seven kilometres of

the Xichang Space Centre in

member rapid deployment

force to be dispatched quick-

It said falling debris also injured 23 people, probably

peasants living near Xichang in a mountainous region of China's most populous pro-

No space workers were hurt and space centre itself was undamaged.

Scores of foreign broadcast executives with interests in the Apstar satellite who had been flown to Xichang for the launch were returned to Beijing the same day without being told of the deaths.

### Panel urges end to Security Council veto

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) - As part of a reform of the United Nations, the Security Council should increase its membership by 65 per cent while the United States and other permanent members phase out their own veto rights, Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson said Friday.

Mr. Carlsson, co-chairman of a panel of diplomats and international leaders, told the Associated Press that the group recommends the 15member Security Council should be increased as soon

The United Nations also

as possible to 23 members to make the body more repre-

should form a 10,000-

ly to world trouble spots, the panel said in its report Thursday to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali at the start of the annual world economic forum of government and business leaders. The United Nations has grown dramatically since a relative handful of nations

formed the world body at the end of World War II and selected the Soviet Union, China, Britain, France and the United States as permanent members of the Council, the panel said.
"We live in a different

world today," said Mr. Carlsson. "It's important to bring in some new countries." The panel recommends

creating a new class of "standing" members who would be added to the permanent five. This would include two industrialised countries, and one from Latin America and one from Asia, he said.

members, but it has been widely suggested that Germany, Japan, India and Brazil should be included. The group said it would be a backward step, however, to give the standing members

The panel declined to

name who should be standing

the veto and that the permanent five should refrain from using their rights except in extreme cases until they give them up all together in 10

Democratic Senator Pat-

rick Leahy, an anti-mine cru-

sader, said it cost \$100 mil-

lion to clear 80,000 explo-

sives. At that rate, he said, it

would cost \$100 billion to

eliminate all land mines. "It's

a global catstrophe," he said.

Among other actions, the United States has imposed a

ban on land mine exports and

introduced a resolution in the

U.N. General Assembly call-

ing on all nations to take

similar action.

### **World's land mine problem 'worsening'**

WASHINGTON (AP) -Land mines kill or maim an estimated 500 people a week worldwide, and the problem is getting worse despite inter-national mine clearance efforts, the U.S. State De-

more land mines are deployed in armed conflict every year are removed by mine clearance personnel," the department said in a report. It estimated that the world

is littered with 80 million to 100 million anti-personnel land mines in 64 countries. Most of the victims are innocent civilians. Land mines cost as little as

minate use of these weapons is beyond calculation," the report said. "The world must take stronger steps to address the problem."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, addressing a State Department gathering Friday, said that around the world "mines strewn in farmlands and paddy fields, in schoolyards and on country roads, make entire communities uninhabitable."

"They drive people from

their land," he said. "They keep refugees from returning home.' "Ridding the world of

these hidden killers will literally save tens of thousands of

The report cited estimates that mine clearance efforts extracted about 80,000 mines globally in 1993, but that 2.5

The study quoted Brigadier-General (ret.) Patrick Blagden, a U.N. demining expert, as saying, 'we're losing the battle." The three nations with the

largest land mine problem are Afghanistan, Angola and Cambodia, with an estimated 228 million mines combined.



Grozny — a ghost city where everyone waits for death

A mother waiting in a hospital in Nazzan where her son is hospitalised for a broken leg, suffered during shelling of by shelling. "If I went there I Grozny by Russian forces (AFP photo)

they hardly flinch at the rattle of machinegun fire, the odd crack of sniper rifles and

thunder of shelling. A Sukhoi-27 bomber jet swooped low overhead, dropping anti-missile decoy flares,

At that distance, not falling

flat on the ground can be

suicide, but several Grozny

but not bombing.

civilians walked calmly on, oblivous to the fact that had the plane released its bombs they would have been killed

or maimed. The Chechen soldiers, who flitted through the centre, in and out of the rubble, have

also made a pact with death.

weapons that work in street

"We won't leave. We have

Smoke poured from blackened buildings, broken and burning natural gas lines lit up deserted streets strewn with bricks and glass. At one crossroads, a lorry lay stranded across the road, its back window shot out by a

and flying shrapnel.

sniper. Roofs were caved in at house after house. Walls were pocked with bullet holes. Thin cats and many dogs roamed aimlessly along the icy pavements.

### sentative.

partment said Friday. "The simple fact is that

\$3 apiece and often look harmless, but their ability to kill or maim is just a footstep

"The burden imposed by the proliferation and indiscri-

million mines were im-

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Jordan Press Foundation. University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

### Peace must be protected

RIGHT AFTER the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25, 1994, the U.S. administration and Congress, in a gesture of support to Jordan, moved to write off \$700 million of the Kingdom's foreign debt. In a further step towards bolstering peace in the region. President Bill Clinton wrote to his Western allies urging them to follow on U.S. steps and forgive the Kingdom's debts. That has not materialised. Nevertheless, aid, though not substantial by any standard, continued to trickle into Jordan from the U.S., the European Union and Japan. That aid, in forms of grants and soft loans, has been far below the expectations of most Jordanians who, rightly or wrongly, were made to believe that they would feel the peace dividend immediately after the signing of the peace treaty with Israel on Oct. 26.

In the words of the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. recognises that for peace to get hold in the region, the people must feel and enjoy the benefits it is supposed to bring. However, Mr. Pelletreau cautioned that while his administration would encourage U.S. private sector investment in Jordan, any formal aid to the region must go through a now Republican-dominated Congress that is not favourable to increasing U.S. foreign aid. Meanwhile, the Europeans are saying that they should not be expected to finance the peace process if they have only little say on its progress.

We, therefore, feel that for the process to maintain momentum and progress, the Americans and their rich European allies, who both have very high stakes in the success of the process, should work among themselves to ensure that the process will not stagnate or regress if the peoples concerned do not benefit from peace. Perhaps what the Americans should do is give the Europeans more say on how peace should be achieved and how the benefits, political and economic, should be shared by all the parties to the process including of course the Americans and the Europeans.

The peoples of the Middle East should not expect their economies to be transformed overnight as a result of the achievement of peace in the region. But other nations should realise that if the process fails the whole region will once again find itself living under the shadow of war. The reverberations of such a situation will reach far beyond the borders of the area. Neither the countries of the region nor other nations want such a situation to develop; they should not let it

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday expressed concern over the situation along the Saudi Arabian-Yemeni borders and the tension which could lead to confrontation between the two neighbouring countries. We follow up with deep concern the movements on the ground and the massing of troops along the common border despite the statements from Riyadh and Sanaa that the two leaderships are keen on avoiding any clashes, said the paper. Any explosion in the Arabian peninsula would end with grave consequences to both sides and to the Arab national interests, benefiting the enemies of Arab solidarity, said the daily. We in Jordan join our voice to those who call for reason and for dialogue and peaceful efforts to defuse tension and ensure a peaceful outcome of the current crisis, continued the paper, Jordan would no doubt respond favourably to any request to mediate between the two sides and to contribute towards ensuring peace and stability, added the paper. It warned that certain foreign powers are pursuing efforts to perpetu-

A COLUMNIST in A! Dustour daily said that the United States has displayed ingratitude to Egypt by maintaining clear ties with the Islamic extremist groups which are ak's regime. Looking back on Cairo's services to the West in general and Washington in particular, one remembers that it was Egypt which, under president Anwar Sadat, turned the tables on the Russians and sided by the American strategy in the Middle East region, said Saleh Al Qaliab. He said that Egypt has sided with the United States in its confrontation with Iran and created the umbrella which the United States needed to launch its devastating war on Iraq in the Gulf war. Finally, it was Egypt, through the Camp David accords, which opened the way for the United States to pursue its programme for a settlement between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Washington said the writer, should take lessons from history and ought to remember that it had regretted its abandonment of the shan of Iran, a move that has continued to cost the United States very dearly.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

### Worries about trade links with Israel should not be exaggerated

agreement with Israel in accordance with the provisions of the peace treaty. Jordanian businessmen have the right to worry about any change in the ground rules. The lifting of the 47 years old boycott against Israel may have major consequences for them, alter the landscape and change the status quo. The worries can be felt at varying degrees on both Jordanian and Israeli sides, because the coming free trade flow was unthinkable until recently. The new state of affairs was never studied carefully. In fact, Jordanian businessmen do not know what to expect and what are the likely risks. Since the economic boycott was imposed by the Arab side, it is only natural to find that normalisation is an Israeli condition, and that Israel is expected to be the major beneficiary of normalisation.

Arab literature dwells excessively on the possible risks and damage that the Arab economies will suffer in case of a sudden removal of barriers. The most repeated risks that

were pointed out are: The disparity in the degree of development: Israel is an advanced industrial country while Arab countries, including Jordan, are developing countries.

- The possibility that Israel may assume the role of the new coloniser and become the custodian of Arab riches. — The fact that Israel has a surplus capacity in its productive units which it will try to utilise and dump in Arab markets. It will become the centre of services for the entire Middle East.

- The chances for the strengthening of an imperial base, because normalisation will make Israel stronger and, consequently, a higher threat to the security of the Arab

- This possibility that normalisation will be instrumental

in making a greater Israel possible and render Arab economies dependent on Israel. - Israel will benefit from specialisation and the

economies of scale. - The enhancement of the Israeli qualitative superiority over the Arab quantitative resources.

Those points of view are worth examining and analysing. However, opposite points of view do exist. In general, the assumed risks stem from several assumptions, which are obviously baseless, such as:

- Israelis are superior and Arabs are inferior in the present and in the future and in all fields of technology, agriculture, management, etc., as if there is a racial superiority of Jew in comparison with Arab.

— Israel will be the active player while Arab countries will be passive; Arabs will remain forever subject to the

Israeli action and not an equal. - There is no value for the huge difference in favour of Arabs regarding area, population, vast economic re-

 Israel will be in control of Arab states in case of peace. It will contain and lead the region as if it is the only country in the world that monopolises technology and information, and as if the major powers, like America, Europe, Japan and others, will withdraw from the Middle East markets in

All these assumptions are wrong and without foundation. They stem from an inferiority complex. The advocates of exaggerated normalisation risks think that their warning against fatal risks is an evidence of wisdom and knowledge while denying those risks or putting them in their real size is an indicator of selling out or surrender.

## Mosque and state in Sudan

IN EARLY November, the Khartoum press reported a reconciliation between the Sudanese regime and an ultra-orthodox Islamist group called Ansar Al Sunna Al Mohammadiya (not to be confused with the Mahdist Ansar which provides the sectarian base of Sadiq Al Mahdi's Umma Party). The Ansar Al Sunna was founded in the 1940s as a puritanical religious organisation with no visible political ambition or involvement. Ideologically, they belong to the Wahhabi revivalist tradition which constitutes the official creed of Saudi Arabia.

Like most Islamist groups in Sudan and elsewhere, the Ansar Al Sunna experienced an upsurge in popularity during the late 1970s and '80s, evidenced by the spread of its mostres throughout the counmaintained its essential political posture, and concertranted on strict adherence to the Shari'a, Islamic law, and the total seclusion

With the increased fusion between Islam and politics in the last decade or so, the Ansar Al Sunna, being strenuous advocates of Shari'a, was gradually drawn into public pro-nouncements with hints of macro-politics. Thus the group supported former President Numeiri's experiment with Shari'a in 1983. Likewise it pledged support to the present National Islamic Front (NIF) regime following its take-over in

However, following the regime's pro-Iraq stand during the last Gulf war, the Ansar Al Sunna parted company with it and became highly critical of its conduct and policies. This may be attributed to the group's traditional ties with Saudi Arabia, and the latter's estrangement from Khartoum since the Gulf war. This factor notwithstanding, the present reg-ime has deliberately excluded any religious group outside the NIF from power and influence. In 1993, when the Ansar Al Sunna became outspoken in its criticism of the government beyond the latter's narrow level of tolerance, its activities were curtailed and some of its members and leaders (including Sheikh Abu Zeid Mohammad Hamza, the group's num-

ber two) were detained. In February last year a group of armed fanatics led by a Libyan, Mohammad Khalifi who was later executed, stormed the group's main mosque in north Omdurman during dawn prayer and attacked the worshippers with machine guns, leaving 19 dead and several others critically injured. The event triggered further hostility between the government and Ansar Al Sunna; several of its centres were closed and the ever outspoken Sheikh Abu Zeid was rear-

rested. Against this background. the current reconciliation The Sudanese regime seems resolved to allow Islamic parties a share in its religious authority as long as they stay away from politics

Government Authority on

Drought and Development

(IGAAD) have proved

that gaining the upper hand in the field does not auto-

matically lead to a negoti-

ated settlement on the gov-

ernment's terms. Accor-

dingly, if the Sudanese reg-

ime is able to reconcile the

mainstream parties, Umma

and DUP, it would en-

hance its negotiating

Sudan Peoples Liberation

Army (SPLA) factions and

the mediators, the IGADD

There is however

another dimension to this

issue, the question of reli-

gious authority and legi-

timacy. Despite its success

in wielding political power

and maintaining it against

all the odds, the NIF has

not been able to enforce its

religious authority over the

country's Muslim majority.

Historically, Sudan, unlike

other Muslim societies, did

not witness the growth of a

centralised religious au-

thority in any from (no hierarchy of ulama as in Iran

and Saudi Arabia. or pre-

stigious institution of learn-

ing as in Egypt or Tunisia).

By and large, whatever

may be regarded as a reli-

gious authority has re-

mained local and apolitical.

One manifestation of this is

the mosque, which has

maintained its historical

role as a religious and so-

cial institution in contem-

porary Sudan, but has

steered clear from direct

political involvement or

agitation.
Within this context,

those religious groups with political ambition, such as

the "protonational" sects

of the Ansar and Khat-

miya, formed or supported

political parties (Umma and DUP respectively).

Likewise, the predecessor of the NIF, the Muslim

Brotherhood, appeared in the early 1950s essentially

as a political party with a

religious agenda. Moreov-

er, unlike its counterparts

in other Muslim countries,

it did not build its mobilisa-

tion and agitation strategy

around the mosque, but

rather around the student

campuses and other con-

ventional platforms of poli-

tical activity (such as trade

unions, army, mass orga-

However the mosque

was occasionally used for

political purposes. The

leaders of the Ansar and

Umma parties sometimes

resorted to "mosque poli-

tics" when denied direct

political activity. During

the 1980s the NIF, then

passing through its population

phase, also used the mos-

nisations etc).

countries.

between the government and Ansar Al Sunna is more of a truce than an agreement. Under its terms, the government agrees to stop its harassment and detention of the group's members: whereas the latter will refrain from agitation and harsh criticism of the government. The significance of the agreement is that it has relieved the regime from stubborn and often embarrassing criticism from a religious group, even if the latter is a minority one. For Ansar Al Sunna, it might mean unhampered religious activities, its compromised political stand notwithstanding. Additionally, one might read an external dimension to this deal; namely, a calculated gesture by the Khartoum regime towards the Saudis. Though the potential is remotely there. would take more than overtures to ultraconservatives to engage Riyadh in a process of rap-, prochement with Khartoum. Therefore the significance of the government's deal with Ansar Al Sunna remains confined to domestic affairs and somehow linked to the wider contest of religious author-

ity and legitimacy. Gestures of reconciliation

Prior to the announcement of the deal with Ansar Al Sunna, the government extended gestures of reconciliation to the Umma and Democratic Unionist Parties (DUP). the constant partners of parliamentary rule in Sudan, and currently the backbone of the umbrella opposition, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Confirmed reports suggested that top-level talks did take place with the two parties both at home and abroad during the last months of Septimeber and October, However, the talks failed because the NIF's negotiators were effectively offering next to nothing in terms of powersharing and related ques-tions. They only emphasised the necessity of a Sudanese solution to preempt foreign interven-

There is one particular justification for this recent reconciliation bid of the Sudanese regime; namely, the south. Despite its military gains, the government is growing increasingly restiess about the stalemate there. Moreover, the successive rounds of peace negotiations under the auspices of the Inter-

tion in the country's affairs.

tinued to be laid on conventional political activity. Despite its comparative minority position, the NIF actually news itself as the

que pulpit for political

agitation and mobilisation,

heir to the Khatmiya and Ansar sects and their political wings in both political and religious terms. Having achieved political power, the NIF faced the difficult task of enforcing its religious legitimacy and au-thority. This goal has been pursued on two levels: first destruction of the economic and social power of sectarian leaders through confiscation of their properties and economic inment of their business associates; second, disman tling of sectarian religious authority. Towards this end the government "nationalised the 19th-century mosque of the Ansar in central Omudrman and declared it a stae mosque. Simultaneously, it pursued an extensive programme of "Islamisation" through education, the media and, of course, the mosque.

Consequently, the mosque was virtually pushed to the centre of social life in northern Sudan and became increasingly politicised. Yet, the experience of Ansar Al Sunna shows that the process could backfire. Instead of enhancing the religious au-thority of the regime in place of traditional sectarianism, the zealous pursuit of Islamist programmes seems to be leading towards the gradual politicisation of smaller religious groups who have hirtherto had little or no interest in To "nationalise" or close

the centres and private mosques of these groups is politically and religiously sensitive as a general pattern (though individual suppression has occasionally been applied). Alterna-tively, a modus vivendi seemed the most suitable course of action for the regime. If the deal with Ansar Al Sunna is to become a model, it calls on the religious groups, or any other force with an Islamist agenda of a sort, to recognise the political authority and legitimacy of the NIF regime in exchange for a measure of religious autonomy. Depending on the case, the offer might include also symbolic parti-cipation in "harmless" bodies such as the Transitional National Council (an appointed parliament) or the recently appointed Peace Council.

Therefore, instead of a fruitless pursuit to enforce its religious authority on the entire Sudanese Muslim community, the NIF appears to have resolved, at least temporarily, to allow others a share in this religious authority as long as they do not "meddle in political affairs." Ironically, that is how the secularists in Sudan and elsewhere would like to see the role of Islam and Islamist groups, i.e. confined to religious

Middle East international

### Diplomats say Bahrain riots pose little threat

MANAMA — A spate of anti-government agitation and arson has raised questions about the durability of Bahrain's ruling elite, but diplomats and residents in the Gulf island state are convinced the government has little to fear.

They said the unrest. confined almost exclusively to villages of the island's historically restive Shiite Muslim community, appears to have run out of

"The government was never under threat ... these were mainly pinpricks," one foreign diplomat said.

Minor incidents were reported by residents in one or two villages on Thursday night, the start of weekend when most of the rioting had erupted over the past

two months. They said a heavy police presence might have deterred potential troublemakers - a measure of the government's success in suppres-

Youths trying to mark the 40th day after the death of a man in clashes with the police early in December the 40th day is an important religious occasion for were prevented from doing so and a few were arrested, residents

"We were watching out for Thursday night .... very little happened, which is reassuring to the expatriates worried about a resumption of the trouble," one Western diplomat said.

The government blames incitement by militant clerics for the troubles in which five people, including a policeman, were killed. A sixth man, seriously injured in previous riots, died in hospital on Thursday night,

The Sunni-dominated

government this month deported four Iranian-trained clerics, all in their late 20s or early 30s, including Sheikh Ali Salman, whose arrest on Dec. 5 sparked the riots. The emir, Sheikh Isa Bin

Salman Al Khalifa, has blamed "foreign quarters" for the troubles, a reference to radical Iran whose media have been broadcasting wildly exaggerated claims about the extent of the unrest and the resulting deaths. Mr. Salman and the other

deportees apparently all studied at religious seminaries in the Iranian holy city of Qom. Government sources say some of those trained with Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Iran

or at camps in Lebanon. Opposition sources say up to 2,000 people have been arrested since the un-rest started, many held for only a few days. Several hundred remain in prison.

But the arrests have not deterred a revival of political life in the island state that is unusually buzzing with political gossip. Political

"The barrier of fear has been broken," one opposition source said of the debates in Bahrain where political discussion was virtually taboo until recently because people feared the long arm of the security

Opposition figures in Bahrain see the unrest as for democracy in the state that lies a few kilometres off Saudi Arabia's richest

oil producing region.

They say they have so far gathered 21,000 signatures on a petition calling for the restoration of the elected parliament that was dissolved 20 years ago. This is a relatively large

number in a small country with a native population of less than 400,000. The petition, the second to be organised in two years, has yet to be presented.

But the 1992 petition was rejected and diplomats expect the new one will suffer the same fate.

The emir three years ago appointed a shura (consultative) council to widen representation but its role is purely advisory, along the lines of similar councils appointed in neighbouring state like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"You don't expect us to go faster (towards democracy) than our neighbours,' one government source asked rhetorically.

One democracy activist said the sectarian nature of the unrest - confined to Shiites who account for about two-thirds of the island's native population — was a setback for political freedoms on the island. "It has alienated the Sun-

mis," he said.
The wealthy merchant class, mostly Sunnis traditionally allied with the ruling Al Khalifa family, have generally rallied behind the

But the island's Sunni Muslim militants, who would have been expected to join in the agitation, have kept their distance mainly because of its sectarian nature, opposition

### LETTERS

### Exercise in casuistry

To the Editor:

THE ARTICLE by Rami Khouri on Terrorism, colonialism and peace in Palestine and Vietnam' (Jordan Times, Jan. 24) is an eloquent, if long-winded, exercise in casuistry: While on the one hand it condemns acts of terrorism such as the most recent example at Bait Lid, on the other hand it attempts to provide a psychological justification for it, though not a moral one. It also claims to represent the feelings of "many, and perhaps most Palestinians and other Arabs" as "not particularly anguished", or "outright gleeful that Israeli soldiers are being killed and injured by the score."

I do not know by what method Mr. Khouri is able to claim that he knows the feelings of "perhaps most" Palestinians and "other Arabs" but I suspect that his views are based on a wish to appeal to an audience which he thinks will applaud his views. As one of the "other Arabs", I have an equal right to propose that "many, and perhaps most Palestinians and other Arabs" are in fact extremely 'anguished", and not at all "gleeful" at an act which they have learned from bitter experience does not advance their cause, but on the contrary, prejudices it.

The motive for the suicide bombings at Bait Lid and on

previous occasions was not, as Mr. Khouri claims, frustration at "the demeaning nature of the peace talks underway with Israel": Those who inspired it do not conceal that their goal is the destruction of the Israeli state. They are not unhappy, as Mr. Khouri is, that the negotiations underway with Israel seem to be making no headway: They are delighted with that fact, because it gives plausibility to their belief that no peace is possible with Israel; and if no peace is possible, war is the only alternative.

Mr. Khouri is scornful of "Arab official political psyches", and hints that we are in a situation similar to that of the United States when it signed a peace accord with North Vietnam in the early 70s, when "governments made peace, but the people did not", so that these "accords were subsequently rendered meaningless by the anger of the people in whose name they were signed" - presumably a stern warning to the regime in Jordan. I do not believe that there is any danger that the people of Jordan, including its Palestinian population, will become angry with the regime which made peace with Israel; they are more likely to become angry with those who, perhaps unconsciously or unintentionally, endorse the views of those who do not want peace, and justify the actions of those who opt for

Cecil Hourani,

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as saying his current important Middle East. Mr. Petitic Mr. Petitic Middle East. Mr. Petitic Middle East. Mr. Petitic Mr. Petit Mr. Petitic Mr. Petitic Mr. Petitic Mr. Petitic Mr. Petitic Mr. less visited Savul Arai he United Arab Emira the United Area Light (UAE) and Egypt to disc foreign policy priority which included helping p ties reach just and comp hensive peace, aiding secuin the Gulf region, secu U.S. access to energy sources vital to the U.S. e nomy and helping reduce meat of weapons of m destruction.
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Mr. Masri urged the s ernment to draft a new e tion law that would cons date democracy, strengt national unity and ens equality for all citizens. He stressed the "uni ties" that bind Jordan and Palestinians, saying tan "enlightened" government approach towards Palestinians would result enabling Jordan and Pa

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Saying that commitments the Arab World are stror than all other agreeme including the peace tree with Israel. The for House speaker also critici what he called the limitat

### Relief

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sive and lasting peace in the region," the King was quoted as saying. During his current trip to the Middle East, Mr. Pelletreau visited Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Egypt to discuss foreign policy priorities which included helping parties reach just and comprehensive peace, aiding security in the Gulf region, securing U.S. access to energy resources vital to the U.S. economy and helping reduce the threat of weapons of mass destruction. The U.S. official said he

discussed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who has said that Egypt will oppose signing the treaty which is up for renewal in April if Israel does not sign. The treaty requires 85 of the 168 original signatories to remain effective, binding all original signatories to the treaty.

U.S. committed to Jordan's needs

Mr. Pelletreau said the U.S. hopes that as many governments as possible "will be able to speak in favour of the treaty.

"We are talking about it in . a serious and quiet way," he said, but ultimately it is a sovereign decision for each country.

Jordanian officials quoted by Reuters said Mr. Pelletreau discussed with Sharif Zeid obstacles in advancing the peace process and bilateral relations.

"Jordan stressed its concern with lack of tangible advance on the Syrian track, a prerequisite to continued progress towards comprehen-sive Middle East peace," one official said.

Petra said the prime minister expressed Amman's concern "to attain comprehensive and just peace which guarantees the restoration of legitimate rights of the countries of the region."

"Comprehensive peace ! will also ensure security and stability, a basic foundation to achieve economic progress for the countries of the region," Petra quoted Sharif Zeid as saying. §
Mr. Pelletreau earlier met

Foreign Minister Kabariti, who also raised concern about progress so far in ":mplementing peace accords with the Palestinians and other Arab tracks," officials said.

Mr. Pelletreau was quoted as saying that both Jordan and Israel were working "in good intentions to implement their own peace treaty" adding that U.S. policy also aimed at a comprehensive peace between the parties in peace talks.

### Israel to begin pullout tomorrow building of a new one, paving

(Continued from page 1)

toring of the new internationgovernment," he said. "No modification or change to the al borders with Israel, Brigland could be carried out Gen. Shurdom said: "Both without explicit Jordanian sides are free to adopt whatgovernment permission." ever security measures are Farmers need special perneeded on their side of the mission to enter the areas at

border. He said there will not be The Royal Engineering any limits on the military Corps have placed concrete presence in the border areas and metal border marking and there is no stipulation and also built new access that foreign observers would roads to the areas being rebe posted in the areas.

Among the additional work undertaken by the Armed Forces were the demolition of an old bridge in the Bagoura area and the

roads in the Wadi Araba region, setting up watchtowers and entry points, and land surveys ahead of the return of the territory. "Jordanians are fully co.n-

mitted to the text and spirit of the peace treaty but that includes a commitment by and awareness of all that this agreement would bear fruits for the country's future," said Brig-Gen. Shurdom. "Tae fruits of peace will not materialise right away, but I am sure that by continuous and serious efforts, we can achieve security and prosperity for our country.

### Lawmakers debate policy

(Continued from page 1) to have become a norm of behaviour that is growing and becoming clearer in the Jordanian society."
He said it seems that

turned by Israel to Jordan, he

planning to deploy security

forces for permanent moni-

Asked whether Jordan was

night, he said.

some are trying to make (this behaviour a lasting) reality.

Mr. Masri said this norm of behaviour was taking root despite His Majesty King Hussein's repeated assertions that national unity is a pillar of stability in the country. But, he said, these calls to

maintain national unity remain unimplemented. The 30-member cabinet of Sharif Zeid includes three from excess in thetoric in the

Mr. Masri warned that the weakening of the feeling of justice and political stability among a great segment of society will reflect badly on the economy and the social

cohesion of the country.
"His Majesty the King's repeated calls to treat citizens equally despite their origins must be translated into practice and the government has to announce that clearly and take measures to guarantee the commitment to, and implementation of the prac-tice," Mr. Masri said.

Mr. Masri urged the gov-ernment to draft a new election law that would consolidate democracy, strengthen national unity and ensure equality for all citizens.

He stressed the "unique ties" that bind Jordanians and Palestinians, saving that an "enlightened" government approach towards the Palestinians would result in enabling Jordan and Palestine to stand up to the economic challenges that Israel

would pose.

But Mr. Masri said it should be left to the people to decide what form of relations they will have in the future, challenging those who profess separation between the two peoples to show evidence that this separation would work "or forever remain si-

lent." Mr. Masri urged the government to assert the Arab a proof of the premier's re-Muslim identity of Jordan, saying that commitments to the Arab World are stronger than all other agreements, including the peace treaty with Israel. The former House speaker also criticised (Amman) said this yearning what he called the limitations by some lawmakers to join

of democratic freedoms in the past two years when, he said, there was no tolerance of the opposing points of

But Mr. Masri said Sharif Zeid is an able man who has been involved in the policymaking process for years, and can, with his team that has many qualified members, take the right decision to right the wrongs and start building a modern state... Without such a modern state, he said, the Kingdom cannot attain the political weight

that it deserves in the region. "This House has suffered past period. Now is the time for serious work and for action," said Mr. Masri.

But Mr. Masri agreed with other lawmakers that the policy statement of the government is a comprehensive and solid plan of action which should be implemented.

Sharing the views of Mr. Masri that democracy has suffered in the past period. was Deputy Mohammad Daoudiyeh (Tafileh) who expressed confidence that Sharif Zeid and his team will be able to put things on the right track.

He said Sharif Zeid understands the importance of maintaining cooperation with the legislature and he would have obtained the confidence of the House even if his cabinet had not included any

parliamentarian. While expressing respect. for the Islamic Action Front and leftist lawmakers who oppose the government for practical reasons." Mr. Daoudiyeh criticised parliamentarians whose opposition, he said, is based on personal considerations.

Mr. Daoudiyeh, a former head of the press office at the Royal Court, said it was unacceptable to view the opposition as opposition to the regime saying that its existence is a healthy sign for

the country. While Mr. Daoudiyeh said Sharif Zeid's inclusion of 17 lawmakers in his cabinet was spect for the role of the legislature, other deputies criticised what they called parliamentarians' race to become

Deputy Mifleh Al Lawzi

the cabinet has weakened the performance of the legisiature and reflected negatively on its image.

To solve this "problem."
Deputy Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh (Madaba) prc posed granting members of Parliament the same privileges that ministers enjoy.

He said some lawmakers have become "slaves" because of the demands of their constituencies for jobs, which, he alleged, some ministers give to people with whom they seek to curry favour instead of filling vacancies in the public sector in accordance with the la.v.

The deputy said this practice should stop and legisiators should not have to "beg" ministers for services in their constituencies.

Addressing the peace treaty with Israel, leftist Deputy Khalil Haddadin (Amma-ı) said that as "nationalists" members of his Arab Baath Party will use all constitutional means to prevent normalisation with Israel.

Citing the government's task of implementing the peace treaty as the reason. Deputy Talal Obeidat (Irbid) announced that he will withhold confidence from the government.

The House will resume its debate today. Eight more denuties are scheduled to take the floor to express their views on the government.

It is from the IAF and

leftist deputies who will speak today that the government is expected to have the strongest criticism over the peace treaty.

Parliamentary sources said the LAF has almost reached a decision on having Deputy Abdullah Akaileh (Tafileh) deliver a speech on behalf of all its members. In the speech, the IAF is expected to attack the peace process and demand more freedom for the opposition in expressing its views.

Also taking the floor today will be leftist deputies Bassam Haddadin and Toujan Faisal who are expected to withhold confidence.

Lawmakers will cast their votes after the government responds to their remarks. If. as expected, the session ends today, it will be the shortest session on a vote of confidence since the parliamentary elections in 1989.

### Relief supplies destined for Iraq

(Continued from page 2)

Permission, however, has arranging medicines to be been granted by the U.N. and the Jordanian government to transport the Indian collected medical relief via Amman to Iraq, Mr. Joseph said. A recent visit to Iraq by a British Red Cross delegation also expressed concern over the increasing number of deaths attributed to malnutrition and a lack of medicines, he said, adding that

this organisation was also

taken to Iraq. Mr. Joseph said the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that many hospitals in Iraq were likely to be closed because of the lack of medicines and medical equipment.

Sheikh Mohammad, Mr. Joseph and Mr. Varghese will return from Iraq next Friday or Saturday to meet a further four planeloads of medicine

expected to arrive within the next two weeks.

The cost of transportation by Royal Jordanian from India to Amman has been met by donations, Mr. Joseph said. He declined to discuss: the total cash of the reliefs

supplies. "There is no political motive ... the medicines will be presented to the Iragi authorties as a humanitarian gesture and a token of goodwin from the people of India." Mr. Joseph said.

### Yemen wants monitors

(Continued from page 1)

Negotiators prepared to hold more talks in Riyadh Saturday in a bid to resolve the dispute which has provoked several armed clashes on the border, but an official in Sanaa was pessimistic about chances for success.

The official in Sanaa who requested anonymity told AFP that draft proposals from the two sides were "irreconcilable." The two countries are in

dispute over the provinces of Najran, Jizan, and Assir close to the border and assigned to Saudi Arabia under a treaty signed in 1934. Yemen argues the Taif accord expired in September

to renegotiate the treaty. "The Yemeni working group is demanding that the Taif accord is taken as a whole, and insists on normalisation between the two countries prior to a settlement of the border dispute,"

1992 but has said it is willing

the Yemeni official said. "However, the Saudis are demanding the renewal of the Taif accord, the demarcation of the unmarked border from Jabel Al Thar to the Oman-Yemen border, as well as the demarcation of the maritime borders, before any normalisation."

"By massing their troops along the border, Saudi brothers ... want to put pressure on Yemen," the official added, condemning the "show of force by hardliners in the Saudi leadership which have expansionist aims." Saudi Arabia on Saturday denied claims by Yemeni President Saleh that Saudi

troops had massed along the disputed border. A Saudi official quoted by the Saudi Press Agency said Riyadh "remains attached to the terms of the mediation accord concluded between the two countries on Jan. 15 following a previous armed incident on their border and

Mr. Saleh has said that Yemen would not retaliate if it came under attack from Saudi Arabia.

calls on Yemen to show the

same commitment.



Jewish settlers and Palestinian protesters clashed near the West Bank settlement of Maale Amos on Saturday. The settlers fired at Palestinians torching two mobile homes installed to expand the settlement, a witness said.

No one was hurt in the confrontation outside Maale Amos, an isolated Jewish enclave 20 kilometres south of Jerusalem.

It was the most violent. incident since Palestinians began protesting against a settlement expansion cam-paign launched by settler leaders in mid-December. Saturday's confrontation

began at about noon when some 100 Palestinian villagers and 30 Israeli peace activists arrived to inspect three mobile homes set up earlier this week by settlers on three hilltops surrounding Maale Amos in a land grab. A small group of Palesti-

nians set ablaze a trailer while the other demonstrators were walking uphill to the second mobile home, said Palestinian peace activist Mubarak Awad who denounced the arson.

Maale Amos settlers began firing in the direction of Dr. Awad and his group from inside the settlement, Dr. Awad said. The demonstraground until the shooting Settlers fired 200 to 300 rounds from rifles and sub-

machine guns, said Israeli peace activist Uri Avnery. The army confirmed that settlers opened fire, but said they shot in the air, not at people. Troops detained three Palestinians on suspi-

cion of torching the trailer. The peace activists denounced the violence by both sides, but said future clashes over land were inevitable. They accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of backing the settlers' land-Arab campaign in West Bank areas he even-

tually wants to "annex."

"A new chapter of the war has started under the flag of peace," Mr. Avnery said. "The Rabin government is using the settlers to create a map of annexation.'

#### 'Elections postponed'

Israel and the Palestinians have agreed to postpone Palestinian elections until all aspects of Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank are resolved, an Israeli official said. Israel Radio reported that

Mr. Rabin had offered to temporarily pull back Israeli troops in the West Bank to allow the Palestinians to hold earlier elections.

Mr. Arafat, however, told

delay elections until a full Israeli pullout was worked out, the radio said. The Israeli official, speak-

ing on condition of anonymity, confirmed the radio report. Mr. Arafat's spokesmen

declined to comment on the report. Meanwhile a 24-year-old lieutenant died Saturday of wounds he suffered in the double suicide bombing last

week, bringing to 21 the number of Israelis killed, an army spokesman said. The soldier was with 20 other soldiers killed in the attack Sunday at a bus station near the coastal town of

Netanya, north of Tel Aviv. A Palestinian was killed and another wounded in explosion in the Israelioccupied West Bank city of Hebron on Saturday, a

Palestinian source said. The circumstances of the blast were unclear.

Rafael Eitan, an ultra-nationalist MP and a former army chief of staff, on Saturday proposed sending tanks into the autonomous Gaza Strip to wipe out militants there. "If Gaza is becoming a

refuge for terrorists we must enter it with tanks to liquidate them," Mr. Eitan, leader of the Tzomet party,

### King stresses media role

(Continued from page 1;

Israel that enabled us to regain sovereignty on our land and maintain our rightful shares in water."

Gerard Gatinot, IOJ's outgoing secretary general. hoped that peace would prevail in this region pointing out that journalists are the first to be influenced and

affected by continuous wars.
"There can never be freedom of expression and opinion under a condition of continuos war. Journalists have always been the victims. often paying with their lives," Mr. Gatinot said. "But this sad era has come to an end at d there is hope that peace w'll triumph.

In his opening speech, Suleiman Qudah, president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), called on participants to take measures to improve the status of journaiists all over the world, especially those who live in areas of conflicts.

"We have a big responsibility ahead of us. In many parts of the world, journalists are assassinated and arrested and journalism is under a heavy pressure. It is our main objective at the IOJ to apprade the situation of journalists," he said.

According to JPA's president, IOJ welcomed JPA's invitation to host the meeting here due to the good reputation of Jordan in the field of press freedoms.

"There has been no violations of press freedoms in Jordan in the organisation's reports," Mr. Qudah said. The four-day meeting will

focus on issues related to press freedoms, protection of ournalists and the impact of modern technologies on the press in general. Elections of a new executive committee and president, which will take place on Tuesday, are expected to top the meeting's

### Excerpts from speeches of lawmakers on government policy

(Continued from page 3)

urge all the Parliament members to follow my example and refuse to intercede or mediate or beg for such matters since every responsible official is guided by rules and laws, and the vacant posts are for all applicants and citizens, not for a specific district. The deputies' stand is also weakened because there are many who seek to become ministers at all costs. Deputies seek such posts because they wish to enjoy the ministerial privileges such as good pensions. Such privileges should be granted to the Parliament members so as to stem the House members' strong desire to be ministers. I demand that Parliament set up mechanism for monitoring the executive authority and its performance and give the Audit Bureau additional authorities to control matters. With regard to the government's policy statement I can say that we are at the threshold of a new stage following the peace treaty. This government should act in a manner to satisfy the aspirations of people who had pinned great hopes on the treaty, but felt that nothing has materialised. This government should carry out reform in the economy, education and public administration, and achieve social justice. It should stem poverty and unemployment. introduce a health insurance system for all citizens and help build the institutions which help establish the rule of law.

Having carefully read the government's policy statement I found nothing new. The government has not committed itself to achieving anything within a given period. The statement contained general terms suitable for any government in any third world country. The statement says that public administration reform will be carried out. This implies that administrative corruption exists. But how will the government deal with it? I would like to point out that the Social Security Corporation has not been wisely investing public funds. This corporation, which holds JD 400 million, does not invest except in shares and real estate or cy depositing funds in the yes, there is the unjust siege

changed in any country, not for the sake of appointing favoured persons, but rather in response to necessities to r change which benefit the public interest. This government is contradictory in its structure. It does not reflect whether the minister's post is technical or political. Although the cabinet ir.cludes some members with high qualifications eligible for their posts, it contains people unfit for their portfolios. I call on the House to conduct the vote of confidence in the government by voting on each individual minister rather than the Cabinet as a whole.

Ibrahim Z'ubi (Independent, Ramtha, Bani

No doubt this ministry was formed to cater to the needs of a new stage and for a march that started at earlier stages. This stage has its own conditions and problems ...For fairness sake, I say that the previous government has led Jordan through the most difficult stage in its history, has exerted its utmost to serve the interest of the country in the present and the future, has given most concern to foreign affairs, and was excused to do so. The new government is destined to lead the country in the most dangerous and critical stage in its history. It is required to start from the point where the previous government had finished...thus its responsibilities are very grave, requiring individual and group efficiency and creativity. There are (problems such as) poverty, unemployment, hunger, soaring prices, monopoly and exploitation. All of these are challenges that should be met with courage, wisdom and determination... On the external front, there are the administrative and legal procedures resulting from the peace treaty...and there are the torn Arab relations that this country of conciliation, solidarity and unity should have a positive role in mending ...this government, since its first days, has embarked on carrying out its duties by taking wise and positive steps in the right direction, and

are Islamic and international causes that are linked to us in one way or another.... All these challenges require that we renew our foreign policy, our media policies, and require a revolution in administrative reform to fight corruption in all its forms and sources... The government's programme as expressed in its policy statement is balanced and integrated, aspiring to achieve national prosperity. Therefore I view any efforts by the legislative authority to help the government in carrying out its policies (as expressed in its statement) as efforts to help the country at present and in the future. This requires, more than at any other time, concordance and agreement between the legislative and executive authorities to help the government carry out its poli-

Hani Hijazin (Ahd, Karak)

I start my speech by congratulating the prime minister and his ministerial team over the King's confidence in them...

I have read the government's policy statement and examined all its parts. I was fully convinced that the government is determined to offer all it can for Jordan...and is seeking a good and peaceful future for its people. I did not find in the state-

ment any gap to criticise or

comment on, except to men-

tion some urgent and pressing demands: Regarding unemployment and poverty...although I know the economic and financial conditions of Jordan, I cannot excuse the government for any failure in finding solutions to the problem of unemployed youth waiting for any job opportu-

nities. The government asked in its statement from the people to wait and be patient. Work should be done to help this category of citizens by establishing small and medium industries and to urge investors in every governorate to use their capital in development projects that would benefit

the citizens and the country... I also ask the respected government to monitor prices of commodities in a more

addition, I urge the respected government to make Christian feasts national holidays observed by closing all minis-. tries and government departments.

Talal Obeidat (Independent, Ramtha, Bani Kenaneh)

I am withholding confidence in the government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. This government is number 81 on the list of cabinets formed in Jordan since 1921 until today. All these governments presented their policy statements :0 Parliament to win a vote of confidence. A reading of these statements reveals that they are similar and almost identical. The present government, which succeeded the cabinet of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali that concluded the peace treaty with Israel, is entrusted with inplementing the treaty in letter and spirit. This government will continue to carry out the orders of the World Bank which had a hand in imposing the sales tax and in increasing water prices for Jordan Valley irrigation. These taxes and increases are bound to put further burdens

on the Jordanian citizens. Mifieh Lawzi

(Independent, Amman) I congratulate (Prime Minister) Sharif Zeid and his government over the royal confidence invested in them wishing the government success in carrying out the duties assigned to it.

This stand of mine does not prevent me from expressing the following. As consultations were taking place to form this government, a large number of deputies focused all their attention on contacts and meetings, thus entering the swirl of the ministerial game, with each looking for a ministerial post for himself, regardless of the post, as if having it was the end goal and the target of legislative work. This situation reminds us of splitting booties and gains, and citizens were asking whether the deputies were elected to carry out their duties in monitoring the performance of the executive authority and to carry out their legislative duties, or to

of death and murder imposed serious way and to set the have them queue for the on brotherly Iraq, and there prices of all commodities...In magic ministerial post... What we have seen in the days which preceded the forming of the governme. would in no way improvparliamentary performance.

It would make deputies target ministerial posts, and this would in turn ruin the principle of separating the authorities. It also makes us once more warn against this. dangerous direction in our democratic march and prompts us to call for separating the two authorities in addition to asking the new governments to find another formula that secures them confidence on the basis of their programmes and plans in addition to the confidence of His Majesty, and not on the basis of having the larges: number of deputies in government ... I would like also to remind you that every time (some) deputies are made ministers, the number of those who are discontent will he more than those satisfied by this...But if we agree to the principle of having deputies joining governments. I would ask a question on how the ministerial posts are distributed to the deputies and in accordance with what. scale? And why were some areas in the north and south of the Kingdom represented in the government, and Greater Amman, the heart of Jordan, was forgotten. I sincerely call for giving the deputies all the rights and privileges of ministers because that will

I trust that the government, with its bead and members. will exert efforts to accomplish what is possible in this policy statement, in a way preserving the unity of the Jordanian family and the safety of the domestic front...

make them carry out their

roles at the house properly...

In conclusion, I urge the government to give special attention to domestic affairs and to revise the internal programmes and plans. I ask it also to give attention to citizens' demands, namely the residents of western Amman's suburbs... I aiso ask the government to revise the Election Law to achieve justice in taking into consideration population distribution and geographic factors. Last, may God grant the government strength in carrying out its duties...

# World Bank urges reform for Kuwait — consultancy

KUWAIT (R) — The World Bank has urged Kuwait to pursue privatisation, cut welfare state subsidies and maxi- financial position following mise government savings to aclp diversify and strengthen eccaomics consultancy said Saturday.

were never implemented. Al Shall Consultants noted in a

weekly review. The bank's report, which

WASHINGTON (R) - The

U.S. economy grew at the strongest rate of the year

curing the final three months of 1994, the Commerce De-

partment said Friday, posting

its most vigorous expansion

in a decade for the full year.

The nation's gross domes-tic product (GDP) expanded

at a 4.5 per cent annual rate

in the three months from

October through December,

up from 4.0 per cent in the

growth, inflation eased dur-

ing the fourth quarter and

was at historically low levels

for all of 1994, with overall

growth up four per cent for the full year.

The initial fourth-quarter

GDP report, which will be

revised twice in coming

months, is the final look at

the economy's performance before the Federal Reserve's

policy-setting committee

gathers next week to consider

all goods and services pro-

duced by workers and capital

(Fed Chairman Alan Greens-

pan) characterised it yester-

day," said Northern Trust

economist Paul Kasriel, re-

ferring to Mr. Greenspan's

testimony Thursday before a

ern African states, plagued

by periodic drought and re-

congressional committee.

GDP measures the value of

more interest-rate rises.

within U.S. borders.

Despite accelerating

U.S.

**GDP** 

surges

third quarter.

several years of large budget deficits, the government's exis oil-based economy, an cessive role in the stateorchestrated economy, distortions in the labour market, The report, completed in reliance on state subsidies for late October, echoes numerpublic services and economic ous recommendations made dependence on oil. in previous international consultants' surveys of the tiny Gulf oil-exporting state that

"Despite its strictness, the report is balanced in its presentation and identification of problems," Shall said. It did not say how it had obtained the confidential

were the government's poor

The budget deficit if untre-ated might "jeopardise cur-rency stability and the free flow of funds," Shall reported the bank as saying. Policies such as subsidisation, protectionism and exempting Knwaitis from a variety of financial obligations had undermined the pillars of a free market economic en-

vironment." "Probably the most important subject mentioned in the report was that the government, which guarantees the employment of Kuwaitis, does little or nothing to develop their productivity.

Thus, not only does the mo-tive for work diminish but the human capital of Kuwait deteriorates," Shall said.

Ninety per cent of Kuwaits work for the government. The bank estimated the worth of the Reserve Fund for Fature Generations (RFFG) — a government investment nest-egg meant to fund the country when oil runs out — at 11 billion di-

nars (\$37 billion), Shall said. Assuming the budget deficit persisted at current levels and oil prices fell by only one cent a barrel, the fund could be depleted within

five years if it continued to be used to help cover the shortfall, Shall commented.

The government liquidated over half the RFFG to help pay for its 1991 Gulf war liberation and oilfield re-

"The report stresses the importance of a just distribution of wealth and income between present and future generations. It is essential to achieve an optimum level of savings to replenish the RFFG and offset fluctuations in oil revenues," Shall said. Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan said this month he plans to cut the Gulf war-inflated deficit by a third to one billion dinars (\$3.34 billion) in fiscal 1995/ 96 starting on July 1. The deficit in 1994/95 is projected at 1.502 billion dinars (\$5

The government plans to reduce subsidies on petrol and services such as water and electricity and increase customs levies but has given no details of the mea likely to be unpopular with Kuwaitis used to government

### nominate academic

nead

to head the new World Trade

Organisation (WTO). In a bid to break a dead-

The WTO succeeded the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on Jan. 1. It so far has 76 member states, who have been unable to agree on a WTO leader.

The formal candidates are ex-Italian trade minister Renato Ruggiero, the candidate for the European Union, South Korean international trade ambassador Kim Chul-Su for the Asia-Pacific countries and ex-president Carlos

In their letter the economists argued Dr. Bhagwati was an ideal candidate, committed to multilateral trade, sensitive to threats to it, and able to provide forceful lead-

to be a candidate that India i the United States could cosponsor. We hope they will," they said.

Dr. Bhagwati, now-a U.S.

sor, as economic policy adviser to then director-general Arthur Dunkel.

By Glasbergen

# **Economists** as WTO

LONDON (R) — Leading economists Friday put forward Indian-born U.S. academic Jagdish Bhagwati as their alternative candidate

lock over who is to lead the world's main trade watchdog, 23 professors from universities in the United States, Sweden, Japan and Belginm together with Yale University's Economic Growth Centre nominated Dr. Bhagwati, professor of trade economics at Columbia University.

In a letter in Friday's Financial Times newspaper, they said, "among the possi-ble candidates, we would recommend particularly Professor Jagdish Bhagwati."

Salinas de Gortari of Mexico.

ership on it. "Bhagwati would appear

citizen, has successfully argued against imposing import targets on Japan and threatening trade retaliation as part of U.S. efforts to open up the Japanese markets to foreign imports, they said.

Dr. Bhagwati worked at GATT, the WTO's predeces-

### Uncertainty grips Mexicans as U.S. lawmakers debate their economic future

MEXICO CITY (Agencies) ble in the U.S. Congress be-Uncertainty has become a daily reality for Mexicans as U.S. lawmakers in Washington debate their country's

economic future. Unemployment and prices have risen since the Mexican peso began its disastrous slide last month. Mexicans fear more lost jobs and even higher prices if American lawmakers don't approve a \$40 billion bailout package for their country.

"This is the reality of beautiful Mexico," Carlos Pena, a 54-year-old worker said as he watched small children begging money from motorists on a major Mexico City thoroughfare. "And the people are going to suffer even more.'

Marches demanding salary increases or a government solution to the economic problem have become an almost daily occurence along the smog-choked streets of the nation's capital since the peso lost 40 per cent of its value last month.

Millions of Mexican families are feeling the squeeze in this nation of some 90 million "It's pretty much the way | people as rates for telephone and electrical service have risen in recent weeks, along with the cost of basic foodstuffs like tortillas and milk. President Clinton's \$40 billion loan guarantee package for Mexico is in serious trou-

cause the administration has failed to convince the public it is needed, House Speaker Newt Gingrich said in Washington Friday.

Despite two days of highprofile lobbying by top admi-nistration officials, Mr. Gingrich said the proposal still had little support in Congress or in the country. 'The fact is the president

has not succeeded in making case for this. It is very unpopular in the country and it has not been explained very well," Mr. Gingrich told reporters.

Mr. Gingrich said he had talked by telephone with Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and planned to meet with him, possibly on Monday, to see how the proposal could be salvaged. He said a vote in the House was still possible next week.

Failure to approve the package could further erode already waning investor confidence in the Mexican economy and could trigger more jitters in the Mexican stock market, economists say. Although most Mexicans

back the loan guarantee package, they are wary of conditions some American lawmakers would like to attach to its approval.

The suggested conditions include forcing Mexico to cut its ties with Cuba, toughen its policies on U.S.-bound imtor, producing more than one migration, and privatising the million cars and trucks - half state oil monopoly Petroleos for export. Mexicanos, better known as

Meanwhile, four South American countries are set to offer a billion dollar aid package to the financiallytroubled Mexican government, Brazil's ambassador in Washington announced Fri-

Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima said at a conference at the Brookings Institution that the details of the deal to be offered by Brazil, Argentina. Chile and Colombia were under discussion and would be announced soon.

The news followed Thursday's disclosure that the International Monetary Fund had all but given the nod to a \$7.8 billion standby loan for Mexico.

On the business side, Volkswagen has announced that it will cut 1,400 office employees - about 35 per cent of the entire administrative staff, Mexican news media reported Friday, quoting union officials. The auto producer also has

announced plans for another weeklong shutdown at the plant in central Mexico beginning Feb. 17, the union officials said.

Last year, Mexico's auto industry was the showcase of the

But now the nation's financial crisis is putting the brakes on domestic car sales, making auto workers some of the first

and most visible victims of the Mexican peso's recent Volkswagen, which makes 36 per cent of all cars sold in Mexico, closed its Mexican factory and sent 14,000 workers home this week because of an expected drop in car

demand. Ford has closed an

assembly plant in northern Mexico. Nissan, the only Japanese automaker with a plant in Mexico, has announced it will lav off 1,000 workers beginning Monday. It also suspended delivery of U.S.made cars to Mexico.

Volkswagen officials expect last year's sale of 160,000 cars inside Mexico to fall 30 to 50 per cent this уеаг.

Even if they keep their jobs. Mexican auto workers will have to fight for salary increases, whose purchasing power has returned to 1980's Before the devaluation,

auto manufacturers paid an average of \$2 an hour in salary, benefits and taxes for Mexican workers, compared to the \$40 an hour cost of U.S. workers.

### nation's manufacturing sec-Southern African states need money for food stocks

duced crop harvests, are looking for nearly \$45 million to fund a project to help It said \$30 million of the boost food security in the region. The pr helping the 11 Southern African Development Commun-

ity (SADC) states build up stocks of staple foodstuffs to meet deficits and promote intra-regional trade to cut down dependency on costly imports. The food security programme consists of 10 projects valued at \$63.17 million of which \$18.27 million has been secured, leaving a funding gap of \$44.9 million."

reserve project would involve dered by community officials in the Malawian capital Lilongwe ahead of the group's meeting with donors

amount being sought was for the establishment of a regionagainst shortfalls during droughts and natural disas-Drought in 1991/1992

forced countries in the region to import more than seven million tonnes of cereal and current projections indicate the region may have to import 3.74 million tonnes to meet expected shortfalls in the 1994/95 marketing year ending this May. The report said the food

the creation of a fund in readily convertible currency and a market information system to which all SADC countries would have access.

"At the request of registered buyers in the region, whether by member state governments, parastatal organisations, commodity brokers or donor agencies, the fund will source, reserve and or procure maize (the region's staple food)," it said.

"Preferably, such maize will be surplus production available in the region. If buyers are constrained by a shortage of foreign exchange, loan capital can be advanced from the fund in order to conclude procurement contracts," the report explained. Loans from the fund would have to be repaid to maintain its seed capital.

SADC - comprising Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Nami-bia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa -- see the project as essential particularly in the event of food emergencies what a rapid response is

While the project would initially deal with maize, it is envisaged that an expansion of capital in the reserve fund would allow other staple food similar manner.

commodities to be handled in The report said it was imperative that Southern African states, most of whose economies are agriculturaldriven, invest in expanding production and make provisions for a safety food net for vulnerable populations. Agriculture employs up to

80 per cent of the total labour torce in the region and funds up to 30 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings. The report said the performance of the agricultural sector in most member states

had been "rather disappointing," pointing out production had never equalled population demand and was unlikely to do so in the next few years. Total demand for maize

was projected to grow to about 70 million tonnes in 2025 from 27 million 1987.

GLASBERGEN /

THE BETTER HALF,

### EU, Asian leaders see summit near

DAVOS, Switzerland (R) -A summit of European and Asian heads of government to discuss strengthening eco-nomic and political links is becoming more of a possibility, two key leaders from the

regions said Saturday. Jacques Santer, newly installed president of the European Union's (EU's) executive commission, told the World Economic Forum in Davos he saw such a gathering along lines of two similar. Asia-Pacific summits being held "in the near future".

Singapore Prime Minister Goh Tok Chong, also speaking at the annual meeting of world business and political leaders in the Swiss mountain resort, said a Europe-Asia summit was "now a distinct possibility" within 10 to 16 months.

But the two men offered differing approaches to the issue of cooperation between their regions.

Mr. Santer, a former prime minister of Luxembourg who took over the top EU post this week, said the union "will continue to press for further market opening in many of the Asian-Pacific economies, some of whose markets remain impenetrably closed for financial services as well

as goods."
"I believe the opening of the Asia-Pacific and South American regions, politically and economically, are an im-mense opportunity for the European Union to extend its influence in the world," he

"I therefore welcome and will encourage deeper political and economic ties with all countries in these regions. I welcome the call for a summit between the European Union and Asian leaders in the near future," Mr. Santer added.

Mr. Goh told the forum a dialogue between the two regions "will recognise our growing interdependence in a

shrinking world." He added: "It will educate both sides to accept the limits to which we can or should try

to influence each other." Rejecting calls from Europe and the United States for a link between labour conditions in emerging economies and trade rules, Mr. Goh said Asia "cannot achieve overnight the social standards that took decades and even centuries to achieve in Europe itself."

"Europe must accept this," he added. "Barely a century ago, the protectionist lobby in the U.S. raised a similar cry against what it called the 'pauper labour of europe'." Mr. Goh said Asia had no wish to see perpetuation of

sweatshops and low wages. Many U.S. and European politicians and labour leaders argue that such operations give the Asian economies an unfair trade advantage by making their goods cheaper. But he said these condi-

tions would continue to exist in Asian countries "as long as their supply of hungry. under-employed labour is plentiful." Europe, he said, should

engage the Asian states including China "in trade and investments that will enable them to grow rapidly, soak up their labour surpluses and provide higher value jobs." Trade sanctions - which some critics of last year's GATT world trade accord

have suggested - "will not raise wages and social conditions in developing countries to any artificially imposed norms, any more than they comes," Mr. Goh said.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 29, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Some entertainment matter may go awry today but you can still have fun and be busy and accomplish a great deal in some worth-while endeavour that will bring a new

ARRES: (March 21 to April 19) You are frustrated in the morning and should get control of yourself quickly. Get into philosophical studies which are helpful. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Not a good day for seeing partners

who are busy, so turn to more personal affairs and handle them very well. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Meditate quietly in the morning, then be with good friends for the amusements that are mutually liked. Be

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Listen to the idea a friend

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Do not permit some home situations to keep you from some outside celebration which is important. Drive with care.

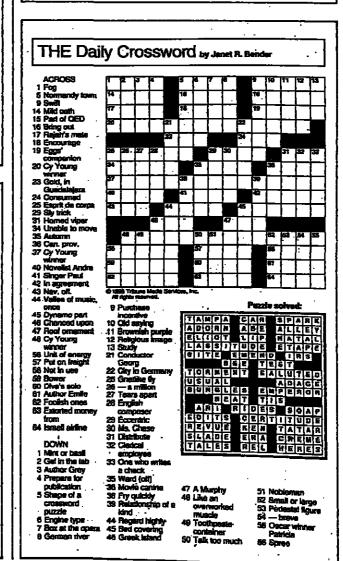
VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have some very good ideas that should be put into action, so don't let little duties stop you. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Talk over with an expert how you can better your monetary position now. Be happy at home with mate and stop couniving.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have an obsession about an activity which should be forgotten, so listen to wise advice SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Avoid one who has

given you trouble in the past and do something thoughtful for those have done you favours. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have already made plans for a happy time so don't permit a friend to get you involved in some other affairs.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get busy at whatever you most eajoy doing and don't let wordly or home affairs bother you. Try not to spend too much money.

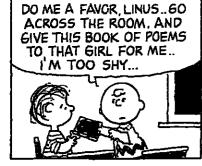
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Store in mind clever ideas about the coming week's activities and then handle some affairs nearby. Birthstone of January: Garent — Rose Quartz



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### **Peanuts**

said a report being consi-









LONGER!



ACT!

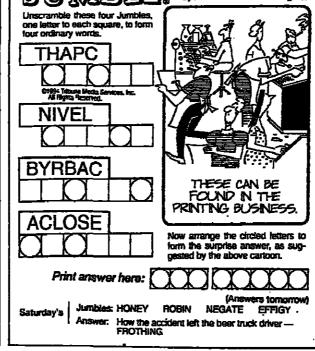














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Europe and the United Stephens includence in hetween in h A review of economic news from the Arabic press

### Ministry of Public Works lists projects for this year

± The Ministry of Public

Works is about to invite tenders to build a ring-road around Amman. Tenders will also be invited soon to build a seven-kilometre, four-lane ring-road around Salt. The Salt project, the completion of which is expected in 1997. is estimated to cost JD 2 million. Other projects to be carried out soon are: (1) A JD 7 million, 20-kilometre, four-lane road linking Agaba-port-Durrah-Saudi border; (2) Maintenance of the Amman-Queen Alia International Airport (JD 6 million); (3) Opening a sixkilometre additional entrance to the airport from Al Qastal to serve air cargo operations; (4) a new road linking Wadi Mousa to Taybeh; (5) expanding the Amman-Um Al Amad - Madaba road to become a four-lane, 17.5kilometre highway at (JD 9 million) - completion expected in 1998; (6) Rebuilding and expanding the Zarqa-Yajouz - Al Jubeiha road for a 20kilometre length (JD 10 million); (7) Expanding the main road between Karak and Qatraneh to become four lanes (JD 20 million); (8) Continuing the construction on the Kufur Yuba-Deir Abu Saeed-North Shouneh road (JD 6 million) (Al

효화 It is expected that over the coming few days the Cabinet will order the liquidation of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and the transfer of its functions to the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC). The role and the functions of the Farmers Federation will also be transferred to the ACC. The liquidation process will first take up the Cooperative Bank which will be totally dissolved along with its 100 staff employees. The 550 emplopyees at the JCO will either be relocated at other government institutions or be dismissed and referred to the social security ranks (Al Dustour).

## The 1995 budgets of 20 independent government de-partments envisage JD 388.3 million in revenues, JD 11 million more than the figure for 1994. Recurrent spending of the 20 budgets combined is projected at JD 275.3 million while capital spending is estimated at JD 220.3 million, an increase of JD 6.3 million and JD 32 million respectively over the 1994 figures. Assuch, the projected deficit of the 20 independent departments amounts to JD 107.3 million in 1995 compared to JD 79.2 million deficit in 1994. The departments are expected to borrow JD 85.9 million (JD 38.9 million internal barrowing and JD 47
million external barrowing) this year. Financial support from the central government as well as loans and other saving measures will be used to cover the projected deficit (Al Ra'i).

**★☆** The Economic Consultative Council has been restructured and now includes: The prime minister (president), and the ministers of education, finance, transport, industry and trade, planning, public works, supply, agriculture, labour, energy, tourism and irrigation. Other members are the governor of the Central Bank, the head of the Social Security Corporation, the economic adviser at the Prime Ministry, presidents of industry and commerce chambers, presidents of the business, banks and insurance associations, president of the Farmers Federation, the contractors' association chief, the secretary-general of the Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, president of the Consumers Protection Society, the Amman Financial Market head and Messers: Sabih Al Masri, Khalil Talhouni, Jawad Hadid, Munther Al Share' and Elia Nuqui (Al Aswaq).

### Japan regains shipbuilding title Hong Kong seen handling 70%

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan regained the position of the world's top shipbuilding nation from South Korea last year on a 64.1 per cent increase in orders over the previous year, an industry report

The 1994 orders totalled 9.92 million deadweight tonnes, the highest annual volume for Japan since the 1973 global oil crisis, surpassing 6.37 million tonnes for South Korea, the Japan Ship. Exporters Association

It was the first time for three years that Japan had overtaken South Korea in contracts before South Korean rivals had stepped up sales following the expansion of facilities, the association said, adding that it expected tougher competition in the current year.

"Thiss year, the annual level won't be so high as last year," said Yuichi Watanabe, the association's executive director.

The annual volume in

tonnage rose for the second straight year, reflecting a recovery in ship prices after a two-year slump, the association said.

In 1994, Japanese shipbuilders received orders for 259 ships, up from the previous year's 165, including 55 freighters (1.73 million tonnes) and 148 bulk carriers (4.91 million tonnes).

In December alone, they received orders for 31 ships (1.06 million tonnes), up from 15 ships (521,440 tonnes) a year earlier.

offset increased output in Switzerland, Citizen Watch Co. Ltd. said Friday. The world's largest watchmaker also said Hong Kong's

role as an intermediary centre for the global watch trade would continue to grow, eventually making it responsible for handling about 70 per cent of all watches. In its annual review of the world watch industry, Citizen

TOKYO (AFP) — Global

watch output levelled off last

year, depressed by flat pro-

duction in world leaders

Japan and Hong Kong, which

said global production grew 0.4 per cent to an estimated 1.07 billion pieces last year. Japanese output edged up 0.3 per cent to 392 million pieces and Hong Kong's production was unchanged at 345

per cent from a year earlier to 135 million pieces but watch production elsewhere dropped 4.9 per cent to 195 million pieces, depressed by declining output in other European countries.

of world watch trade — in time

"Production of chablon (parts) and movements of analog watches were further concentrated in Japan and Switzerland," the company said. "On the other hand, production of completed watches is further expanding in China and other South

East Asian countries." In Japan, the output of analog quartz watches grew five per cent to 356 million pieces while the production of digital quartz watches plunged 27 per cent to 22 million pieces. Japan's output of mechanical watches also nillion pieces. declined, tumbling 30 per cent to 14 million pieces.

Citizen said the value of Japanese production was also down sharply, falling 11 per cent from a year earlier to 273 billion yen (\$2.7 billion).

"This drop-was due to the decrease in the proportion of completed watches and that of the average unit sales price," the survey said.

In Hong Kong, the com-pany noted that digital watches exported from the British colony were "almost always" produced under subcontract in China, along with more than half of the casing work for completed analog watch-

"Hong Kong's role as an intermediary trade centre will grow in the future, making it responsible for the intermediary handling of approximately 70 per cent of the world's watches," the company said. In Switzerland, despite the strong increase in production volumes, the value of production "seems to have increased only slightly," Citizen said.

"The increase in the number of pieces is due to an increase in chablon and movements, although the number of completed watches decreased due to a slowdown in sales of plastic-cased watches. Exports to South East Asian countries in particular increased, accounting for more than 50 per cent of total exports," the company

Citizen said the small increase in the value of Swiss production reflected favourable sales of watches with precious metal cases. Production of such watches grew an estimated six per cent by volume and eight per cent by

# AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET BOUSING BARK CENTER ABOUT - SEMEISANI TELEPROME: 660170 / 663170 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE FRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 28/01/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	SHARES TRADED	TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING CLOSING PRICE PRICE
ARAB BANK	560	103470	104 600 105 000
JORDAN NATIONAL RANK	4380	103470	1 470 1 4 430
JORDAN MATIONAL BANK / NEW	1360	E367	4.420 4.410
BANK OF JORDAN	9478	74110	3 650 3 600
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT RANG	62	126	3.030 3.000
THE HOUSING RANK	7700	16005	2.030 2.030
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1542	10073	3.040 3.050
JORDAN GULF RANK	1/60	2200	3.040 3.050
JORDAN ISLANIC RANK	10770	75400	1.580 1.550
UNION BANK FOR SAUTHS & THUPSTHENT	19719	/3474	3.870 3.830
ANGEAN BANK FOR THURSTNESS	75450	310	5.100 5.100
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1156	20020	1.440 1.430
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	1250	2000	1.600 1.600
ARAB BAHK JORDAN NATIONAL BAHK JORDAN NATIONAL BAHK / MEW BANK OF JORDAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK THE BOUSING BANK JORDAN KUWALT BANK JORDAN GULF BANK JORDAN GULF BANK UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT ANDAN BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT ANDAN BANK FOR SAVING ANDAN PHILADRIPHIA INVESTMENT BANK S SECTOR	76101	341895	INDEX NUMBER: 159.82 CHANGE : -0.11
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

GRAND TOTAL

Financial

Markets

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET

Jordan Times

in co-operation with

# Cairo Amman Bank

Currency a	New York Close	New York Clase
	Date 26/1/95	Date 27/1/95
Sterling Pound®	1.5905	1.5895
Deutsche Mark	1.5178	1.5150
Swiss Franc	1.2760	1.2736
French Franc	5.2550	5.2595
Japanese Yen	99.45	99.38
European Curreny Unit	1.2450	1-2403

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••	6.06	6.50	7.10
00	6.37	6.81	7.56
ó8	4.81	5.06	5.50
50	3.75	4.00	4.37
31	5.50	5.87	6.43
06	2.06	2.06	2.18
71	. 5.98	6.32	6.93
	00 68 50 31 06 71 U.S. De	68 4.81 50 3.75 31 5.50 06 2.06 71 5.98	68 4.81 5.06 50 3.75 4.00 51 5.50 5.87 06 2.06 2.06

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	377.25	7.60	Silver	4.68	0.77

Central Bank of Jordan	Exchange Rate B	ellecia	
		Date:	28/1/1995

	Date: 28/1/1995		
Сштевсу	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6978	0.6998	
Sterling Pound	1.1056	1.1111	
Deutsche Mark	0.4597	0.4620	
Swiss Franc	8-5460	0.5487	
French Franc	0.1524	0.1331	
Japanese Yex*	0.7017	0.7652	
Dutch Guilder	0.4100	0.4120	
Swedish Krona	2014	*****	
Jtelian Lira <sup>o</sup>	0.0434	0,0436	
Belgian Franc	*****	*****	
Per 100	<del>-</del>		

Per 100			
Other Currencies	Durte: 28/1/1995		
Сигтевсу	Bid	Offer	
Bahraki Digar	1.8330	1.8450	
Lebanese Lira*	0.041855	0.042845	
Sandi Riyal	0.1852	0.1264	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3650	
Qatari Riyal	0.1902	0.1915	
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2140	
Omeni Riyal	1.8010	1.8120	
UAE Dirbam	0.1892	0.1986	
Greek Drachma*	0.2785	0.3265	
Cypriot Pound	1.4145	1.5328	

#### AMMAN — Raw materials for the industrial sector in

By Khattab Salman

Special to the Jordan Times

Gaza and the West Bank are imported largely from Israel. and most of the production is marketed in Israel, according to a study conducted by the Centre for Jewish-Arab Economic Development.

The study conducted last year and covered every Palestinian industrial installation with more than 15 employees, indicated that 78 per cent of the installations are industrial, 13 per cent are in foodstuff manufacturing, one per cent agricultural, and nine per cent are of other specialities.

The study reported that 59

per cent of the raw materials needed for Palestinian industries are imported from Israel. 16.4 per cent from abroad, and 24.6 per cent are available locally. At the same time 35 per cent of Palestinian producers market an average of 2.5 per cent of their production in Israel, and that 50 per cent are dependent mainly on the Israeli market.

Palestinian industries depend on Israel

The study, which explored the impact of the interim period on Palestinian industries, showed that currently only 11. 8 per cent of these industries are operating with 90-100 per cent of their full capacity - 2.6 per cent with 80-90 per cent, 35 per cent with 60-80 per cent, and 23.1 per cent with less than 50 per

cent of their full capacity. The study explained that these low levels of production are due to nuge competition because of similar products.

According to the study, the machinery of these industries are 92.3 per cent imported from abroad, 5.6 per cent from Israel and one per cent are manufactured locally in Gaza and the West Bank. The industrial installations are 52 per cent privately / individually owned, 31 per cent goes in partnership of

The major problems facing Palestinian industries. according to the study, are capitals, especially fixed expenses, then comes raw

two or three owners, and 17

per cent are corporated.

materials and marketing. The study also indicated that the cost of production in the West Bank is lower than that in Israel, but it is even lower

in Gaza than the West Bank. Concerning anticipated growth, the study estimated that the rate would reach 65 per cent in the first year, 16 per cent in the second, and 10 per cent in the third year.

69.2 per cent Palestinian industrialists expected positive impacts if a free zone was established, 75.9 per cent were ready to cooperate with Israeli companies through common marketing, subcontracting and joint ventures. Currently 52.8 per cent of Palestinian producers are subcontracting with Israeli producers.

### Iranian cleric: Lash crooked capitalists, officials

NICOSIA (AP) — Amid a growing outcry against corruption in Iran, a senior cleric called on the Tehran government Friday to lash capitalists and government officials who enriching themselves through graft and illegal dealings.

"There's no other way to deal with such people." Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati said in a weekly sermon at Tehran University which was broadcast by Tehran Radio and monitored in Cyprus.

Ayatollah Jannati, a close aide of spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said that a number of capitalists had recently driven up nati, a member of several key

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gold prices by buying up government-issued gold coins and causing a shortage on the market.

Journalists in Tehran said that gold prices had doubled over the last few weeks. Avatollah Jannati said

there were some who were making millions overnight, while most of Iran's 60 million people do not even have enough to eat.

"More and more luxury cars are being imported every day, and being driven past those who don't even own a bicycle," said Ayatollah Jangovernment committees. Iran's 1979 Islamic revolu-

tion was supposed to close the divide between rich and poor. But more than 15 years later, the rich are growing richer and while the poor who make up the bulk of the population - sink deeper into poverty.

President Hashemi Rafsaniani and Avatoilah Khamenei have both warned that corrupt officials as well as hoarders and profiteers will be prosecuted.

Late last year, in response gings, which is widely practised in Iran and some other tion with deteriorating eco- Muslim countries.

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nomic conditions, President Rafsaniani announced vet another crackdown on shopkeepers and businessmen making a killing on the mar-

But judging by the remarks made by Ayatollah Jannati, who said that prices are still rising, the drive has been less

Ayatollah Jannati criticised the government for being soft on capitalists and other wrongdoers, and called on the judiciary to order flog-

### JORDAN MARKET PLACE



INDEX NUMBER: 144.16

**Jordan Times** 

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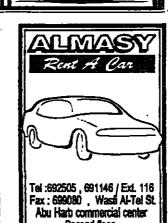
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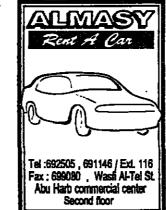
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### NFL Super Bowl a multi-media circus Chargers discount predictions of blowout

MIAMI (Agencies) — Don't drive on the hoopla front. think of it as a football game. Think of it as a multi-media event, a 10-ring jamboree with jocks, jugglers, dancers and snakes, and 135,000 slices of pepperoni pizza.

Welcome to the Super Bowl. America's answer to the bread and circuses of millenia past. The best (or at least the most) of Hollywoodstyle hype and techno-glitz from a country never known as the world's wall flower.

The official purpose of the gathering is the championship game Sunday be-tween the San Francisco 49ers and San Diego Chargers. But with all signs pointing to a boring 49ers rout. National Football League officials have gone into over-

A week of non-stop partying and corporate promotion will be capped by a full bill of entertainment wrapped around the three-hour game at Joe Robbie Stadium. which will be televised to 750 million people in 174 coun-

Pre game festivities will include Latin pop idol Sergio Mendes and country music star Hank Williams Jnr. The national anthem will be sung by Kathie Lee Gifford with Heather Whitestone, the first deaf Miss America, perform-

ing it in sign language.
For the traditional halftime show, the NFL has brought in the heavy artillery: Walt Disney Attractions will stage a three-act Indiana





San Diego Chargers starting quarterback Stan Humphries looks to pass as quarterback Gale Gilbret (background) does the same 27 January at the Dolphins Training Facility in Davie Fl. The Chargers will take on the NFC Champion San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XXIX January 29 in Miami (AFP photo)

debut.

vear." Jordan said.

Jones adventure titled "The Temple of the Forbidden

More than 1,000 performers will take the field here. including tumblers, rock and belly dancers, firebreathers and snake charmers, for the gala headlined by singers Tony Bennett and Patti

While providing a visual feast on the field, Super Bowl organisers are readying a glutton's delight for the 75.000 fans in the stands. with such local delicacies as stuffed vuca and Cuban pas-

They are also preparing 20.00 pretzels, 6.000 pounds of chicken, 40,000 hot dogs and 135,000 slices of pizza which can be washed down with 18,600 gallons of keg beer and 5.000 cases of canned brew that will be on

The extravaganza has even spilled over outside the stadium where the league has mounted a 650,000 square feet (59,000 square metre) theme park called "The NFL Experience.

The park provides more than 50 interactive exhibits. inviting youths and the notso-young to test their running, passing or playcalling skills, get their picture taken in football garb, and spend

Above all, spend money, Under a yawning tent. football and other sports merchandisers have laid out a mind-boggling array of goods for sale. including no less than 18 different styles of Super Bowl T-Shirts, jerseys, jackets and helmets. You can buy signed foot-

balls, player statues, posters, commemorative milk caps. pins, mugs, table tops, trading cards, and other items carrying the coveted NFL The league estimates that it

ball and \$2.1 billion for U.S. pro basketball. Vendors hoped to rake in some \$25 million around the Super Bowl alone. And the

sold some \$3 billion worth of

merchandise in 1993, com-

pared to \$2.8 billion for base-

league sees only more boom times ahead for its merchandising arm, NFL properties.

"The game continues to achieve higher levels of prosperity which translates to the success of products bearing NFL teams and logos." said Jim Connelly. vice president of worldwide retail licensing.

#### Chargers confident

The San Diego Chargers discount predictions of a Super Bowl blowout. They expect that San Francisco will be able to stay close.

The Chargers are saving they plan to win. Oddsmakers, on the other hand, say the 49ers will fleece, flatten, trounce, trample, thrash, bash, blitz, berate, deflate, confuse, abuse and defuse the Chargers.

San Francisco is favoured by 19 points — the largest point spread in Super Bowl history. That means a final score of 26-7.Or 39-20. our

The Chargers may be the only people in America who think they can win.

"According to the national news, we're not supposed to be here." San Diego linebacker Junior Seau said.

"All it does is show you're not respected, and you're not to the level where you should be respected yet. To get that, you have to do something rare. That's to win the Super

It should be noted that the previous largest Super Bowl point spread was 18 points, and in that game, the underdogs won. Quarterback Joe Namath and the New York Jets pulled off an upset he guaranteed, beating Baltimore 16-7 in 1969 at Miami. With the lack of news,

media questions keep coming back to one subject - the unprecedented point spread.

"I don't like it," 49ers coach George Seifert said. "It demonstrates disrespect for San Diego. There must be something special about them, or they wouldn't be here.



San Diego Chargers running back Eric Bieniemy stretches out during the Chargers team practice (AFP photo)

"To me it wouldn't he an upset if we come out and win the game." Chargers running back Natrone Means said. 'We're capable of winning.'

But don't bet on it. All signs point in favour of the

They led the National Football League in scoring and eliminated two-time defending league champion Dallas to reach the Super Bowl for the fifth time since 1982. The Chargers, picked by some to finish last in the AFC West, struggled after a 6-0 start and needed desperate rallies in both playoff games to earn their first Super Bowl berth.

"The 49ers have had a lot more success than we've had in the past," San Diego quarterback Stan Humphries said. "But we're both here now, and it all comes down to Sunday.

The Chargers are bucking not only 49ers tradition, but

National Football Conference tradition as well. The conference has won 10 consecutive Super Bowls.

At this point, it's fair to wonder whether an AFC team could beat Tampa Bay in the Super Bowl. Recent NFC victories have been by such margins as 45, 36, 35, 32

And none of those teams was favoured by 19.

"It's not really a slam on the talent we have," San Diego linebacker David Griggs said with a shrug. "It's an indication of what the AFC has done the last 10 ears. I think the media is looking at the AFC as a 19-point underdog, and not looking at the Chargers as 19-point underdogs.

"We're not saying it should be even up. We're underdogs. But they can't take the 19-point spread, take the trophy and go home. They've got to beat us.

# Pippen unapologetic over suspension

tie Pippen, fined and suspended for throwing a chair after being ejected from 2 National Basketball Association game Tuesday, said his only regret is that he hadn't tossed the referee instead of the chair

Pippen sat out the Chicago Bulls 102-99 loss to the Orlando Magic Thursday night and will pay a \$6,000 fine for his tantrum in a game in Chicago against the San Antonio Spurs.

"I wish I had not thrown that chair onto the court. I wish that chair had been the referee instead," Pippen said, according to Friday's Chicago Sun-Times.

Pippen was ejected by referee Joe Crawford after twice calling the referee's attention to what he believed were 3-second violations by the Spurs' Dennis Rodman. Pippen said he was angry because he wasn't abusive in talking to the refs and his ejection probably cost the Bulls the game.

"I threw the chair because I felt I might as well get my money's worth," Pippen told the Sun-Times. "Joe is one of those guys who just tries to intimidate you with his whis-

Pippen made his comments Thursday after being named to the NBA All-Star team. Pippen, who leads the Bulls in nearly every statistical category served his suspen-sion as his teammates blew an 11-point lead in their loss to the Magic. The Pippen-led Bulls blew

out Orlando earlier this month 109-77, a game in which the star forward had 26 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds.

"We lost this ball game and we should have won it," Bulls gnard B.J. Armstrong said. "We just came up short and weren't able to close them out.'

> Mays forward gets new tests .

Roy Tarpley's right knee is bothering him, he's unhappy with his playing time and he's having mood swings. But the reason the Dallas Mavericks forward will

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — undergo a battery of tests Chicago Bulls forward Scot- from aftercare counselors the next few days is not drug. related, Tarpley and his agent George Andrews said Thursday.

"They said I haven't failed any tests," said Tarpley, who since returning from two years in the Greek league is insted daily for drug and alco-hol use. "But I didn't need to be told that. I aheady knew. I've been telling you garys

that all along."
Still, Tarpley's aftercare counselors, led by Dr. Lloyd Baccus of Atlanta, want to know why the 2.13-meter (7foot-0) center-forward has reportedly behaved crratically before and during several Mavericks games the past month.

"I'm not sure what kind of things they're planning to do," Tarpley said. "They're supposed to be getting back to me. It's another of these things I have to do. I guess they're going to pick me apart and put me back

Keith Grant, Mavericks director of player personnel, said he can't comment on the aftercare, but added that Tarpley's sore knee could force him to go on the injured list and miss at least five games. He's sat out the last six.

"If he's not in compliance of his aftercare programme, I'm sure the league will take appropriate action," Grant

Tarpley returned to the NBA this season after serving three years of a lifetime ban for violating the league's substance abuse policy. He's averaging 25 minutes in 26 of Dallas' 38 games.

When asked about his behaviour and feelings lately, Tarpley asked, "who doesn't have mood swings?

"This has been a rap about me forever. At least, I'm able to laugh about it now. To a point."

#### Results

Boston 117, Golden State 91 Phoenix 108, Philadelphia 107 Portland 87, Cleveland 77 Charlette 195, New York 90 Minnesota 102, Dallas 94 Denver 96, New Jersey 90

(AFP) — The first Grand 1995 rules, a Jordan Peugeot 195, was unveiled here Friday, with designer Gary Anderson predicting the season would see "a lot more, better and more spectacular

The new rules cut engine size from 3.5 to 3 litres and radically change the aerodynamics to slow the cars and improve driver safety.

Teams have "basically all had to start our aerodynamic research programmes again," said Anderson. He said it should be good "because it's brought everybody back to the same starting point and the racing should be closer."

The cars should also put greater emphasis on driver skill because they will have less downforce and will tend to slide more through cor-

ners, he said. The new car was only finished hours before the rollout. "I was up until 6 a.m. today helping build it," Anderson said.

Peugeot has joined Jordan for a three-year contract, having been dropped by McLaren after only one year. France's Total oil company have also joined up, and team owner Eddie Jordan said the new backing had enabled them to start a separate test team for faster development of the new car. It will run for the first time

next week, weather permitting, at the Silverstone track opposite the Jordan factory. Drivers will again be Brazilian Rubens Barrichello and Eddie Irvine from Northern Ireland, Jordan pointing out that his was the only team apart from Ferrari to have

retained the same drivers from last year. "It was an easy choice," he said, noting Barrichello last year became the youngest driver ever to win a pole

Cinema

First 1995 Grand Prix car revealed SILVERSTONE, England position while Irvine had scored Championships points hand, with only brake and Prix car built to the radical after a difficult Formula One accelerator pedals.

Formula One drivers for 1995

"Everything is now in place for 1995, and I think the combination presents us with our best opportunity yet championship:

Jordan, Anderson and other members of the team are Irish, and backing for the Benetton-Reports team from the Irish Ministry of Tourism and Trade will Tvrrell-Yamaha) continue for a second year, announced the new minister, (Tyrrell-Yamaha)

He said the team would be used to support Irish tourism and trade in the countries

for success. I'm extremely

excited about the year

'Big Four" McLaren Peugeot and Fer-

"We took our first pole, podiums, and led races," he said, predicting an even closer fight with the Big Four this season.

"We blew away the Ferrar-

to a narrow rear, features a seven-speed semi-automatic

for having seven gears."

Enda Kenny. where the 16 Grands Prix are

Jordan noted that last year his team, using the Hart engine from a small specialist builder, had already been able to compete with the Benetton Ford, Williams Renault,

is big time," added Irvine with a grin. "This year, if we're lucky, we could have a

The new car, with a bodywork sweeping dramatically gearbox which Anderson said can change from 7th to 1st gear in 0.15 seconds — "you don't pay a penalty any more

has not yet been run in anger.

Tel.: 634144

The clutch is operated by

1. Michael Schumacher

Renault) Williams-Renault)

9. TBA (Footwork-Hart) 10. TBA (Footwork-Hart) Simtek-Ford) 12. TBA (Simtek-Ford)

Jordan-Peugeot) 16. TBA (Pacific-Ford) 17. TBA (Pacific-Ford)

Larrousse-Ford) 21. Pedro Diniz (Brazil/Forti-Ford)

The system enables Peugeot to increase power at the top of the range of the new 3 litre engine, which was installed in the new car but

The International Automobile Federation (FIA) announced the following list of drivers registered for the 1995 Formula One world

(Germany/Renetton-Renoult) 2. Johnny Herbert (GB/ 3. Ukyo Katayama (Japan/ 4. To Be Announced 5. Damon Hill (GB/Williams-

6. David Coulthard (GB/ 7. TBA (McLaren-Mercedes) Mika Hakkinen(Finland/ McLaren-Mercedes)

11. Hideki Noda (Japan/ 14. Rubens Barrichelle (Brazil/Jordan-Pengeot) 15.Eddie Irvine (Ireland/

19. TBA (Larrousse-Ford) 20. Erik Comas (France/

22. TBA (Forti-Ford) 23. Pierluigi Martini (Italy/ Minardi) 24. Luca Badoer (Italy/

25. TBA (Ligier-Mugen Hon-26. Olivier Panis (France/ Ligier-Mugen Honda) 27. Jean Alesi (France/ Ferrari) 28. Gerhard Berger (Austria/

(Austria/Sauber-Ford)

(Germany/Sauber-Ford).

29. Karl Wendlinger

30. Heinz-Harald Frentzen

#### **SPORTS IN BRIEF**

### Vienna and Paris host European finals

GENEVA (AFP) - Vienna and Paris will host the European Cup and Cup Winners Cup finals respectively, European football's ruling body UEFA announced Friday. Five years after AC Milan's 1-0 victory over Benfica, the Austrian capital will yet again host the continent's showpiece event on May 24. And the Parc des Princes in Paris will entertain the European Cup Winners Cup finalists on May 10, even if French club Auxerre reach the final, UEFA confirmed. The French capital last staged a final in 1975 when Bayern Munich beat Leeds 2-0 in the European Cup.

### McKoy sets European 50-metre hurdles record

MOSCOW (AP) — Olympic champion Mark McKoy set a European record in the 50-metre hurdles Friday at the Nike-Seldom World Class competition, Russia's premier indoor track and field meet. McKoy, who competed in the Olympics for Canada but last year received Austrian citizenship, was timed in 6.39 seconds. McKoy, the 1992 Olympic gold medallist in the 110-metre hurdles and the 1993 world indoor champion in the 60-metre hurdles, is the world indoor record-holder for the 50 hurdles at 6.25, set in 1986 when he was competing for Canada. Sergei Bubka of Ukraine, the only pole vaulter ever to clear 20 feet (6 metres), indoors or outdoors, made his first appearance in Moscow of the post-Soviet era. He won at 19-0 1/4 (5.7 metres), then missed at 19-8 1/2 (5.9 metres). Dennis Mitchell of the United States, the world's top-ranked 100-metre sprinter, finished third in the 50-metre dash, 0.12 seconds behind Canadian Bruny Surin's winning time of 5.64. Frankie Frederick's of Namibia was second at 5.74.

### Romario leaves to boos on Brazilian return

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) - Brazilian soccer star Romario made a disappointing return to South American football on Friday, withdrawing to boos after 75 minutes of his new side Flamengo's 1-1 draw in a friendly with Uruguay. Romario, bought by the Rio Club for \$4.5 million from Barcelona of Spain earlier this month, appeared unfit and failed to create any clear scoring chances before leaving the field complaining of a sore elbow. A crowd of 47,000 in the city of Goiania in Brazil's interior flocked to see the return of the striker voted the best player of the 1994 World Cup. But it was young striker Nelio who gave Flamengo the lead after 15 minutes. After hitting the woodwork three times, an understrength Uruguay equalised with eight minutes remaining through Dorta. Romario's World Cup winning team mate Branco, who also signed for Flamengo this month, seemed to struggle playing in midfield and was substituted halfway into the second half.

Volunteer helpers of the planned Skiing World the organising committee the Championships listen to an announcement of not take place (AFP photo)

### Gloom hits Sierra Nevada after cancellation of championship

SIERRA NEVADA (R) ---Friday brought clear skies and brilliant sunshine to Spain's Sierra Nevada but organisers of the 1995 Alpine Skiing World Championships, postponed on Thursday until next year,

were in sombre mood. "Tve felt better than I do this morning," Jeronimo Paez, head of the Spanish organising committee, said on Friday as the arduous job of dismantling the championship village began.

It's impossible to say how

won't be cheap," he said. "It depends how good we are at managing things in the coming year. Paez said \$350 million had been ploughed into infrastructure projects in Andalusia, traditionally one of Spain's poorest regions and

much has been lost but it

the area of the country hardest hit by recent years of drought. Some 70 per cent of that money was spent in Granada main thing is we still have while the rest went to Sierra Nevada itself, he said.

Artificial snow, churned

out daily throughout January in a desperate attempt to cover parched pistes, cost organisers \$25 million alone. But Paez insisted the majority of costs would be recouped when the cham-

pionships return to Andalusia in a year's time. This was an investment in the resort. The cham-pionships are the catalyst for

the investment and ... the

them here next year," he

"We have insurance to cover the main cost of preparations and most of the sponsors we have will not cause us problems.

The championships, postponed here after two months of crippling water shortages in which only a sprinkling of snow has fallen on the Sierra's highest peaks, were to have brought almost 500 competitors to Spain from 48

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national teams.

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THE MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PHILADELPHIA

Jim Carrey

Haller Falls & Filton & Philader in THE GARAGE

Ferrari)

Tel.: 699238

Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 The movie: **The Lion** King will be shown at 5 p.m. every evening as well as extra shows on Fridays and Thursdays at 10:30

Tel.: 677420

CONCORD CONCORD "1"

Swivester Stallone - Sharon Stone THE SPECIALIST Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Harrison Ford - Whitney Houston -

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Daily at 10:30 p.m.

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Presents: The political satire: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m.

For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed on Saturdays & Sundays



### Overworked Sampras faces Inderdone Agassi today

dre Agassi will go into nday's Australian Open n's final fresh as a daisy mpared to defending unpion Pete Sampras. Agassi has breezed into the al, without dropping a set ix matches. He has played ly 150 games, 70 less than mpras who has spent 14 urs and 20 minutes on

Sampras may feel he derved the extra day's rest er needing five sets to ercome Magnus Larsson d Jim Courier plus four to at Michael Chang in the mi-final.

Agassi's semi-final came a y after Sampras, but given e emphatic way he has ogressed, spectators were it wondering if Agassi was ally affected. He even lmitted it had been like a actice workout.

Sampras has also been disaught over the health of his ach Tim Gullikson, who illapsed here, went into ospital for tests, and flew ome to Chicago for further agnosis earlier this week. Sampras believes this Auralian Open is the most secial of the Grand Slams.

This is the most special to e because of the circumst-. ices and the fact that I was own and out against Larsson nd down and out against ourier and I really fought ack and showed more heart us week than I probably ver have, just refusing not to o down without a fight," he

"I think I've shown a lot of sople that I might look kind f lackadaisical, but deep own inside I'm doing whatver I can to try to win." Sampras serve will be his iain weapon in his attempt repeat his win over Agassi the 1990 U.S. Open final. "Whenever I play Andre, I

sally have to be at the top of ly game to beat him, besuse he's got the best return Agassi has been trying to

arug off doubts about his. reparation for what could be five-set decider. Agassi said "I think the

ynamics of the match are oing to bring out the best in

"You can argue both sides; vhether it's good to have a promise your fitness or whether it's better to get through and be fresh and ready to play.

"I feel like I'm hitting the ball well and I feel good. Sampras, two-time Wimbiedon and U.S. Open champion and last year's winner here, is bidding for his sixth Grand Slam title. Agassi is chasing his third after his momentous wins at 1992 Wimbledon and last year's U.S. Open.

#### Australian Open Centre Court flooded

The Australian Open's centre court looked like a giant wading pool as players splashed and danced with de-

Minutes after Andre Agassi won his semifinal by de-fault against injured Aaron Krickstein, a flash flood from the Yarra River swept over the court and caused a brief power failure in parts of the

national tennis centre. Astonished fans watched Natasha Zvereva, Gigi Fernandez, Lindsay Davenport and other players cavort barefoot in the ankle-deep water on the rubberised rebound ace court.

Corridors throughout the National Tennis Centre also flooded, along with the media room where at least 200 writers from around the world tried to file stories on the semifinal match.

When light was restored, an announcer, standing on centre court with his trousers rolled up to his knees, told fans: "Ladies and gentlemen. we have a slight problem with

greeted with huge cheers. Moments later, he returned to ask the thousands of fans present to clear the Center Court stadium as a

A statement by tennis Australia President, Geoff Pollard, later said the flooding had been the result of overflow from the nearby Yarra and was "due to freak weather conditions.

"The flash flood meant that the water level exceeded the drainage capacity," Pollard said. "Flinders Park's drainage system is now clearing the water effectively. It will be business as usual tomorrow.

Fernandez and Zvereva had been beaten by Sanchez Vicario and Jana Novotna in women's doubles final, which preceded Agassi's semifinal

Fernandez wrestled in the water with Australian player Rennae Stubbs as the crowd cheered. Zvereva, carrying a toy kangaroo, danced happily. Known on the WTA Tour for her livacious personality, Zvereva hammed it up before the cameras by striking model-like poses

Agassi said he had been unable to see anything in the locker room after leaving the court when Krickstein defaulted with a groin injury.
"I couldn't see anything,"
said Agassi. 'It was pitch
black in the locker room."

The flooding brought back memories of Wimbledon in 1985, when water flooded walkways at the All England Club after a heavy rainstorm, also on the day of the men's semifinals.

#### Sampras-Agassi record

Pete Sampras seven wins, Andre Agassi five wins.

Year	Venue '
1989	Rome
1990	Philadelphia
1990	U.S. Open
<b>1990</b>	ATP Finals
<b>199</b> 1	ATP Finals
1992	Atlanta
1992	French Open
1993	Wimbledon
1994	Key Biscayne
1994	Osaka
1994	Paris Indoor
1994	ATP Finals

### Australian Open

### Pierce destroys Sanchez to win 1st Grand Slam

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Mary Pierce brushed aside hot favourite Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-3, 6-2 in the Australian Open women's final Saturday to take her first Grand Slam title.

The 20-year-old calmly dispelled doubts about her temperament in the 85 minute victory which gave France its first Grand Slam champion since Francoise Durr won the French Open in 1967.

"I am very very happy and feel I have improved," Pierce said after getting revenge on the 23-year-old Spaniard for her two-set defeat in the French Open final last

Pierce, blasting the tough Spaniard off court with her finely placed forehand, hit so hard and wide that even Sanchez, one of the greatest retrievers, finally gave up trying to reach them.

Sanchez added that her serve had also let her down. Victory at Flinders Park would have secured her the world number one spot. But she will still take the top place next week as Steffi Graf again injured for the Pan

Pacific tournament in Tokyo. But Pierce also scored a notable victory over nerve in taking this Grand Slam title, worth \$360,000 and pushing her world ranking up to number three.

"I was very calm, focused and concentrated for every point," she said.

Sanchez, the French and U.S. Open champion, chased incessantly, but had no real answer to an opponent appropriately dubbed the Queen of Shots by the Press. Pierce stretched to the limit to slam the ball into the corners, often with the Spa-niard stranded on the other side of the court.

Pierce said the Rebound Ace surface was one of her favourite as it was not too fast and the high bounce gave her

time to set up shots. Sanchez' weak service and faulty forehand kept her constantly on the defensive. The duel was fought mainly from the baseline and only four points were decided from the net in the second set.

Pierce said she had been a "little bit nervous" at the start and the final began omiafter she double faulted on the second and third points of the match.

"I wasn't serving too well I think the whole match," she

But Sanchez lost her serve in the second, failing with a backhand and Pierce broke through with a fierce forehand to the corner.

Sanchez took Pierce's service in the third and a tremendous battle erupted around deuce in the following game, "We had a lot of tough points in the beginning of the first set. These were really crucial for me to hang in tough," said Pierce.

'It was important for me to just fight and not to give her

any points." The French player was hit-ting perfect shots, but Spa-niard retrieved from seemingly impossible positions, flicking up the lobs.

Retrieving however was just not enough on a day when Pierce made few mistakes and the French player levelled score at 2-2 after Sanchez Vicario netted a smash and then over-hit a



Mary Pierce holds the women's singles trophy during the awards ceremony at the Australian Open (AFP photo)

ofted forehand. "I should have won that game and everything would be different," Sanchez Vicario said.

But Sanchez was stretching Pierce with deep backhands and in the seventh the French player was looking anguished. and mouthed "No, I can't" to her coach."

But in the eighth game Pierce broke Sanchez Vicario with cross-court forehands and a decisive smash, and took the set 6-4.

The second set opened with Pierce breaking through as she punished returns on her forehand forcing Sanchez Vicario into errors.

In the second game Pierce saw things going against her as one shot bounced tantalisingly high off the net and fell. back, and a lofted forehand by Sanchez plumped down exactly on the baseline.

In the fourth Pierce reacted auxiously, crying out in anguish at lost points and slapping herself on the thigh. The next game was very

tense with Pierce disputing a line call and arguing with the umpire. But Sanchez double faulted and Pierce took the game with a forehand passing shot to make it 3-2.

The fight was going out of the Spaniard and with Pierce's forehand ruling the court she was finding the net or overhitting.

With thunder rumbling ominously Pierce took the match and the title with a backhand which caught Sanchez out of position and raised her hands in triumph. Then she stood for a long

moment with her hands covering her face as if she could not believe her success. Sanchez denied she had been praying for a rain break at the end.

"I knew the weather was etting close to rain but I didn't pray," she said.

The Spaniard laid her defeat to not serving well and said that Pierce was a stronger all round player than Graf because she could hit hard from both sides,

### Cantona to be dropped from French squad

PARIS (Agencies) — The French national soccer team had been struggling anyway, now, with Eric Cantona's suspension added to Jean-Pierre Papin's knee injury, younger players face "an inveresting challenge," the coach admitted Friday.

"To lose Papin and Cantona in the space of 24 hours is tough for a coach," said Aime Jacquet. "It's especially tough because we were in the process of changing our style of play, and now I have to reconsid

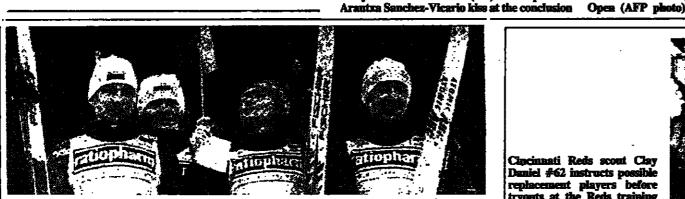
Jacquet commented after the announcement that Manchester United had suspended Cantona for the rest of the English season because of his brazen attack on a heckling fan Wednesday night. Papin, along with Cantona one of France's top scorers of recent years, underwent knee surgery this week and will be out at least eight weeks.

French officials said Cantona would be ousted as captain of the duration of his suspension in England. That means he will miss France's European Championship qualifying match-

es away against Israel on March 29 and at home against Slovakia on April 26. France needs victories in both matches to retain a reasonable chance of qualfying for the championship ound in 1996.

Jacquet refused to de-

"Life goes on for the eam, and Eric's absence epresents an interesting hallenge for a lot of play-Is who now have a chance o prove themselves."



left) Olga Korneeva, Nina Gavriljuka, Lasira ina and Yelena Valbe celebrate on the

Main Uddin s/o Ali Noor

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**GOREN BRIDGE** 

THE GROSVENOR COUP

Injured Valbe loses 1st race of season second overall. Nybraten is

LAHTI, Finland (R) — Russia's Elena Valbe, suffering from back trouble, lost her first World Cup cross-country race of the season on Saturday --- beaten by more than a minute by Norwegian Inger Helene Nybraten

Valbe, first in her last six outings, finished 15th in the

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HERSCH

♦ A 10 9 8 ₱ 10 9 5 4 2

SOUTE

• 10875 7A98

The bidding:
South West North East

1 NT Pass 2 \( \times \) Pass

2 \( \times \) Pass 3 NT Pass

4 \( \times \) Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of \( \times \)

There's a play known as the Grosvenor Gambit which is so spectacularly illogical that it gives declarer a chance to bring home an otherwise improvement. However, it is

change to straig house an otherway, it is such a terrible play that no one can believe you made it and so won't take advantage of the situation. Here's an example of the ruse.

event but remained well ahead in the overall stand-

"I've had backache for a few days and could not give everything. It is as simple as that," said Valbe. Valbe has 616 points after

seven races, 126 more than compatriot Nina Gavrilyuk, fourth on Saturday and

North's two hearts was a transfer to spades and the raise to three no trump showed a halanced game go-ing hand with five spades. Despite a

West led a heart. Declarer took the ace in hand and ran the ten of spades. East won with the ace (!) and shifted to a club to West's ace.

Back came a club.

Declarer won and could now have

made the contract by leading a spade to the king. However, when West followed to the next round of spades, would you make that play? Not a chancel You could never live

down the embarrassment of having East show out, as expected. Natu-rally, declarer tried a second spade finesse and parity was restored—

rally, declarer tried a second spade finesse and parity was restored—down one.
What is the purpose of the Crosvenor Gambit? As declarer, you feel silly when a defender indulges in such tomfoolery. What the defender is hoping for is that, in subsequent play, you will be nonplussed every time you recall how you were tormented by the grinning defender and not play your best, giving your opponents an edge. Could be!

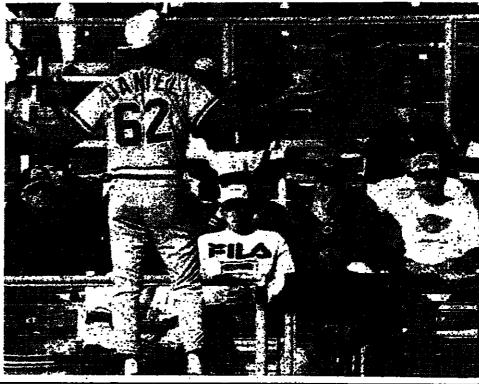
In the men's ski jumping. Austria's Andreas Golderger

extended his lead in the world cup standings by win-ning the normal hill event ahead of Germany's Jens Weissflog.

Goldberge has 972 points after 12 events with Finnish jumper Janne Ahonen next

zaiel #62 instructs po eplacement players before the start of the Major baseball season, U.S. ident Bill Clinton called on owners and players to work out a settlement with a federal mediator (AFP photo)

Mary Pierce of France (left) and Spaniard of the women's singles title at the Australian



### IOB VACANC

C.C.C. Jordan advertises for the existing vacancy in the senior position of the executive secretary to the Group General Manager, located in Amman. The successful applicant will be charge of the G.G.M.'s office and reports to him directly. She will be expected to assist the G.G.M. in performing office and administrative work related to the construction management and project activities of C.C.C. both in Jordan and other middle eastern areas. Duties include the preparation of high quality written communications, marketing proposals. Presentations, agreements, top, level reports and minutes of meeting. This requires the job holder to be highly qualified in using a P.C. and various types of specialised soft ware and printers for processing, storing and retrieving such work.

Applicants are expected to be in the 30-45 years age group, must have a professional degree of at least two years academic studies after a high school, with at least 10 years in a similar. position of responsibility should have a high proficiency in both the Arabic and English languages and demonstrate adequate organisation and supervisory capability.

interested persons may apply in writing to fax No.: 643073 Amman. All applications will be treated in strict. confidence.

The compensation package includes an attractive salary, medical insurance, reasonable working hours and the potential for a good bonus, promotion and career growth within the most successful Arab construction company in the world.





### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Italian businessmen meet Iraqi officials

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A delegation of Italian business men began talks with senior Iraqi officials here Saturday on prospects for future contracts. Iraqi officials said the delegation, representing 38 Italian industrial and trading companies, met Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh and Health Minister Umid Medhat Mubarak. Sergio Marini, president of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce, led the delegation. The businessmen were to discuss prospects for supplying Iraq with food and medicine, which are excluded from the trade embargo imposed on Baghdad after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, said Adnan Al Qadassy, president of the Iraqi federation of industrialists.

#### Turkish radical released from French prison

PARIS (AP) - French authorities have released a leader of the Turkish radical group Dev Sol, a movement suspected of several slayings in Turkey, but ordered him not to leave France. Dursun Karatas, 41, had been jailed since last September when he was arrested entering France on a forged Dutch passport. Mr. Karatas was charged with illegal entry to France, possessing forged documents and stolen goods, and for contact with "terrorist" groups. He is wanted on several arrest warrants in Turkey.

#### Teledyne fined \$11m for Iraq deals

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. government slapped over \$11 million in fines on California-based defence manufacturer Teledyne Industries Inc. this week for exporting banned materials that ended up in Iraqi cluster bombs. A district judge here fined Teledyne nearly \$5.5 million Friday after the company pleaded guilty to violating the Arms Export Control Act and other charges with the export of zirconium pellets to Iraq via third countries. Also on Friday, the Commerce Bureau of Export Administration imposed a \$2 million civil penalty on the firm and announced that the Teledyne Wah Chang division will lose export privileges for three months. On Thursday a federal court in Miami fined Teledyne nearly \$4 million to settle charges of illegally exporting weapons grade zirconium pellets to a Chilean company that sold cluster bombs to Iraq in the 1980s.

#### Cyprus legalises homosexuality

NICOSIA (AFP) — The Cyprus government has approved a bill decriminalising homosexual activity in private between consenting adults, a spokesman said Saturday. The bill, which has to be ratified by the parliamentary legal affairs committee before it becomes law, replaces a former law which made homosexual relations a criminal offence. Gay rights campaigners welcomed the government's move which comes almost two years after the European Court of Human Rights found the island's law a violation of their human rights. "I am pleased because the government is finally trying to implement the European Court's decicampaigner Alecos Modinos told the daily Cyprus Mail on Saturday. "The government has consistently resisted changing the colonial anti-gay law because of public opinion and prejudice against homosexuals,' the English-language newspaper wrote.

#### Moroccan union threatens Air Maroc action

RABAT (R) - The union representing workers of the Moroccan airline Royal Air Maroc (RAM) threatened legal action against the state-owned company on Saturday unless a financial scandal over missing funds was made public. The government launched an investigation this week into the troubled airline's finances without giving a reason. A spokesman for RAM at its Casablanca headquarters on Friday confirmed an inquiry was in progress but refused to comment on press reports that up to 150 million dirhams (\$17 million) were missing from the company's books. The spokesman was unavailable for comment on Saturday and there was no reply from the office of Prime Minister Abdul Latif Filali, who ordered the Finance M personnel at RAM refuse to be the bearers of bad tidings nor victims of the dishonest and destructive behaviour of some irresponsibles. As for our rights, we will know how to defend them by the appropriate legal means..." the union said in a letter published by Liberation newspaper.

### U.S. soldiers land in Kenya

MOMBASA, Kenya (R) — U.S. troops began arriving in the Kenyan port of Mombasa on Saturday to take part in Operation United Shield to help United Nations peacekeepers pull out of Somalia. Witnesses said 138 U.S. troops were aboard two C-141 transport planes while another 22 flew in on three Starlifters. Neither the soldiers nor the U.S. liaison office at Moi international airport in Mombasa spoke to reporters. On Thursday, senior U.S. officials said they had won pledges from Somalia's main warlords not to attack a U.S.-led task force which will shield the withdrawal of some 9,000 U.N. troops from the Horn of Africa country by the end of March. But they said if the warlords failed to keep their word or could not control other militias in Somalia, the multi-national force would have the firepower to respond to "any eventuality."

### Iran wants Israel presssured to sign NPT

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran on Saturday called for Israel to be pressured into signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the official Iranian news agency IRNA said. We call on the signatories of the NPT to pressure Israel into signing the treaty," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said, quoted by IRNA. Israel, widely believed to possess nuclear weapons though it has never acknowledged it, has refused to sign the treaty on the grounds it has a "special" status in the Middle East. Iran urged Middle East countries earlier this month to pressure Israel to destroy its nuclear arsenal. Mr. Mohammadi said his country favored a peaceful use of nuclear science but opposed production of weapons of mass destruction. The United States and Israel have accused Iran of seeking to procure nuclear arms.

### Geagea interrogation to start on Feb. 10

BEIRUT (AFP) - Lebanese Christian famrer warlord Samir Geagea and two other defendants charged with the murder of a rival leader Dany Chamoun will start testifying on Feb. 10, a court here announced Saturday. Mr. Geagea is accused of killing Chamoun, his wife and two sons in 1990. He is also charged with other defendants with the February 1994 bombing of a church near Beirut, which claimed 11 lives. Presiding Judge Philippe Khairallah last week announced that testimonies on the church case would be heard on February 3. Mr. Geagea, who could face death penalty in both cases, is the only militia chief among those who fought Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war to be brought to trial. He has been held for nine months in a defence

### Turkey asks Greece to free detainee

ANKARA (R) - Turkey on Saturday asked Athens to release a Muslim clergyman jailed for 10 months for assuming the title of mufti (religious leader) of a Muslim minority community in northeast Greece. "President Suleyman Demirel sent a message today to Greek President Constantine Karamanlis to express his disappointment that Xanthi's mufti Mehmet Emin Aga was sentenced to prison for carrying out his religious duties," Mr. Demirel's office said. "(He has) requested that Karamanlis be instrumental in the release of mufti Mehmet Emin Aga," it said. Greece does not recognise Mr. Aga as the mufti of the area which has an officially sanctioned religious leader. Mr. Aga was convicted last week for signing as mufti for the district of Xanthi in letters sent in 1993

# Banks asked to raise capital to JD 20m

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has asked all commercial banks operating in the Kingdom to raise their capital to JD 20 million before the end of 1996, CBJ Governor Mohammad Nabulsi said Saturday.

Dr. Nabulsi also confirmed that the CBJ had adopted a new policy of strictly enforcing its limitations on commercial banks' credit to individual accounts or companies in proportion to the capital and reserves of the concerned bank under new CBJ

The CBJ governor, in an interview with the Jordan Times, said the Central Bank had already issued instructions to all commercial banks in Jordan to raise their capital to JD 20 million "They have until the end of

1996 to raise the capital as instructed," Dr. Nabulsi said. He noted that most of the

commercial banks in Jordan had already raised their capital to JD 10 million although the CBI regulations require only ID 5 million.

Maintaining a capital level of JD 10 million enables all banks to meet the require-

Bank for Settlements, which is a key authority in settling inter-bank disputes of an international nature and assessing the international standing of commercial banks.
Banking sources said Jor-

dan's commercial banks. a dominant sector in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) where liquidity for fresh equity is easy to find, would not find it difficult to raise the capital as sought by the Central Bank.

The actual impact on the stock market of the drainage of capital, albeit for a limited period, will depend on the options available to the banks.

"Some banks have reserves and other provisions which would help them to meet at least part of the called-for raise in capital," noted a market analyst. "Some of the banks which already used such means to raise capital in the last two years will have to find new funds."

But if the funds are raised from the present capital available at the AFM, then the market will face a decline, said the analyst. "Indeed, the money will be rechannelled into the market when the fresh shares come to the trading floor, but prices could go down in the



That being one side of the argument, the other side is that the government does not base its policies on AFM fluctuations. "If anything, the stock market is not a productive sector of the economy in government terms,' noted the analyst.

Some of the smaller banks which will have difficulty in raising the capital to JD 20 million have the option of mergers that would also boost their equity value in the market.

standing guidelines to com-mercial banks to ensure that they remain within the credit limitations ordered by the Central Bank, Dr. Nabulsi said: "The regulations were there for a long time, but there have also been many violations.

"As such, heavily penalising violators is the only way we could find to enforce the regulations."

Earlier, the banks were allowed to lead up to 25 per cent of their respective capital and reserves to an individual account or company and any lending beyond this. limit should have prior approval from the Central Bank.

The banks have two months to ensure that their outstanding credit facilities comply with the CBJ instruc-The new CBJ regulations

bring down the limited to 10

Dr. Nabulsi said while the Central Bank always had the standing guidelines to the commercial banks, "We are now strictly enforcing the

The Central Bank's approach to the problem, he said, involved asking the violator bank to raise its reserves with the Central Bank On enforcing the CBJ's by an amount equal to the

This would mean that a bank with a JD 10 million capital could extend credit of JD 1 million to an individual account or company. If the bank extends credit beyond this limit without explicit CBJ permission, say by JD 500,000, then the bank will be asked to deposit an

serves with the Central Bank. Dr. Nabulsi did not specifically name any company or bank that were found to have violated the standing regulations and thus prompted the strict enforcement of the guidelines by the CBJ.

equivalent amount to its re-

But it appeared that a recent episode of credit involving up to JD 35 million granted by one of Jordan's leading commercial banks to a single business group and an ensuing legal wrangle appeared to have nudged the Central Bank to adopt strict

> For some time late last year, the affair seemed to be turning to a drawn-out legal battle in court before the two sides announced a compromise and that they had reached an out-of-court settlement. But the sheer size of the amount involved shook the Kingdom's entire banking nunity.

cisely where their bodies had

been found. Slitting the

throat of a kidnap victim is

the method preferred by the

army-backed government in Algeria have in the past kid-

napped girls as young as 15

for "pleasure marriage," a

temporary union for a speci-

fied period. Girls refusing

proposals of such marriage to

guerrillas on the run have

The militants, whose prin-

cipal objective is to turn

Algeria into a purist Islamic

state, have also targeted

teenagers ignoring a schools

The armed groups have

boycott ordered by fun-

also singled out members of

the CNT and the National

targets, describing them as

"usurpers" following the

annulment of a parliamentary

poll in January 1992 that the

fundamentalist Islamic Salva-

tion Front (FIS) was poised

have died in the insurgency.

More than 20,000 people

Mr. Moghni was the

often been killed.

damentalist leaders.

Guerrillas battling the

guerrillas.

#### 3 children sacrificed to appease goddes

NEW DEHLI (AFP) Three children aged between two and five were murder at a Hindu temple in westel India in a ritual sacrifice appease the local deity, pre reports said Saturday. The temple priest in the district Surendra Nagar found the bodies of the two boys and girl when he opened the shrine Friday, domestic new agencies said. They were kelled Thursday night at the temple to the goddess Melastic new agencies and the said and the said agencies agencies and the said agencies and the said agencies agencies and the said agencies agencies agencies and the said agencies ag after elaborate rituals appeare the goddess, the r ports said. Police recovered blood-stained butcher's knif from the temple and lam ched an investigation. The children were not identifie and no suspects were men-tioned. Child sacrifices are common occurrence in India stemming from a superst tious belief that the offer of human blood would lead t divine blessings. Most ar carried out to appease va rious incarnations of the god dess Kali in her role as fertility divinity.

#### Republican calls lawmaker a 'fag'

WASHINGTON (AFP) -The number two Republican in the U.S. House of Repre sentatives claimed Friday that his tongue slipped when he called gay lawmaker Bar ney Frank "Barney Fag" it an interview with reporters House Majority Leader Dick Armey said he was having "trouble with alliteration" and immediately apologised to Mr. Frank, who is an in the back of his mind," Mr. Democrat, said after listening treme language" that was leadership seems to have a opponents names, said Georgia. "Mr. Armey is too mouth," said Democrat Nita Lowey from New York. Mr. Armey stated that he did not want Mr. Frank to "believe for one moment I would use a shur against him. I had trou-ble with alliteration. I was stumbling, mumbling ... Bar-ney Frank is a friend of mine. I don't use the word in personal conversation. I would not use such an expression and I don't approve of anypaign Fund, the largest U.S. the remark as "prejudice" that "dishonours the dignity" of the Congress and shows a callous disregard for the responsibilities that accompany high public office."

acknowledged homosexual Mr. Frank said he under stood the remark was not intentional. But I could not accept that it was wholly accidental. I just had to believe that it was somewhere Ffank, a Massachusetts to a tape of the interview. Fellow Democrats were outthey said reflected the Republicans' true views and White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry said it was an undermining political dis-course. "This Republican habit of calling their political Democrat John Lewis from damn careless with his one who does this," he said. The Human Rights Camgay rights lobby, issued a statement in which it branded

### 18 dead in bloodiest day of Egyptian violence

MINYA (Agencies) — Security forces Saturday shot dead 14 militants in southern Egypt while gunmen killed four people on the bloodiest day of clashes for three years.

Police said 12 of the militants were killed after security forces surrounded an abandoned marble quarry at dawn in the eastern desert near the Nile city of Minya, which is 250 kilometres south of Cairo.

They opened fire after they were ordered to surrender. Police fired back in a gunbattle that last seven hours," a policeman said. The militants were members of the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group),

four of them from Minya. Police discovered a haul of 11 pistols, a Russian-made assault rifle, nine petrol bombs, four explosive devices and 12 detonators, as well blankets and food in the quarry which served as a mili-

tant hideout. Two other militants, two civilians and two policemen were also killed in unrest elsewhere in southern Egypt, police said.

Several militants opened fire with automatic weapons at a police van outside a hospital in Nagaa Hamadi, 640 kilometres south of Cairo, killing two policeman as well as a man and a woman, police said. The gunmen fled after also

FEZ, Morocco (R) - A

Moroccan court sentenced

three men, two of them

French nationals, to death on

Saturday for "acts of terror-

ism" including an attack on a

hotel last year in which two

Spanish tourists were killed.

zouk, Redouane Hammadi

and Stephane Ait Idir, are of

Algerian origin. Marzouk

and Ait Idir, a former fighter

in Afghanistan, are French

They heard their sentences

quietly then laughed and chatted with lawyers before

being led away by security men wearing bullet-proof vests amid some of the tight-

est security seen in the

ancient central city of Fez.

The three were among 17

men and one woman, all of

Moroccan or Algerian origin, arrested after the attacks in

1993 and 1994 in the Moroc-

can cities of Fez. Marrakesh.

Two Spaniards, a man and

a woman, died when attack-

ers fired into the lobby of the

Asni hotel in Marrakesh in

Salam Chaouche told Reu-

ters he would lodge an appeal

at the supreme court in Rabat

Chaouche, a vocal human

rights activist, said the death

sentences were unjustified on

legal grounds. He said Mr.

Marzouk, accused of the

attack against McDonald's

restaurant in Casablanca in

which a guard was wounded,

Defence Lawyer Abdul

Oujda and Casabianca.

August 1994.

on Monday.

The three, Hamel Mar-

Security forces later shot dead two militants in the train station at Sohag, 250 kilometres south of Minya, police said. They said the militants had opened fire as

wounding three policemen

and three other civilians.

officers tried to arrest them. They added that the militants - who arrived on a train from Nagaa Hamadi -could have been involved in the earlier attack on the police van there.

Police also arrested Hassan Hussein, a regional leader of the Gamaa, in Nagaa Hama-

The deaths bring the total killed this month to 81, resulting from intensified battles in southern Egypt between police and militants who are trying to topple the secular government and in-

stall Islamic rule. Un Wednesday annual police day, both President Hosni Mubarak and Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi made tough statements promising to pursue the radicals who have been battling the government for

nearly three years.

January's death' toll is the highest for any month during the insurgency.

In the Nagaa Hamadi attack, radicals opened fire on three unarmed police outside a hospital, killing two of them and two passersby, in-

did not deserve to die.

"It is not justice to con-

demn a young man to death

for shooting at a wall," Mr.

Chaouche said. "The verdict

goes against the Moroccan

government's supposed hu-

Another French national,

Kamal Benakcha, was sent-

enced to life in prison along

with two other accused. The

woman, 19-year-old Naima

Azil, was given a six-month

suspended sentence and

The other 11 accused men

were sentenced to prison.

terms ranging from six months to 10 years after a

Marathon court session last-

armed robbery, premeditated

and attempted murder and

creation of a criminal gang.

ly carried out in Morocco.

The last execution in 1993

very little Arabic and pro-

ceedings were often halted

because lawvers complained

the translations were inaccu-

rate. A new translator was

Two of them testified dur-

ing the trial which opened on

Jan. 10 that they were lured

to Morocco thinking they

were going to open a garage then found they had been sent cars filled with arms and

ammunition, some of them

destined for neighbouring

Ait Idir, 22, and Hamma-

brought in.

Some of the men spoke

was the first in 20 years.

The death sentence is rare-

The charges included

ing more than 12 hours.

man rights reforms."

### Kabul coup aborted

KABUL (AFP) — A planned coup by two former Hezb-e-Islami commanders against forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani north of Kabul was aborted in a preemptive strike Saturday, a senior official told AFP.

"We had information that these two commanders were part of a big plan in which Hezb-e-Islami would try to grab everything between Kabul and the Salang," said Defence Ministry spokesman

Abdullah. Two former Hezb-e-Islami commanders, Karim Khan and Agha Shirin Salangi, who had changed to Mr. Rabbami's side much earlier, were to switch sides once again and capture Bagram airbase and the town of Charikar.

Abdullah told AFP. Learning of the plan, Mr. Rabbani's topgun, ex-Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud, launched a pre. emptive strike before dawn Saturday.

He said if the rebels had succeeded the plan was for ex-communist General Abdul Rashid Dostum to attack the Salang Pass north of Charikar, while Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami's fighters were to attack Kabul

di, 24, said they were re-

cruited in France by Abdul

Illah Zyad, Alias Rachid,

who is in prison in Germany

and the subject of an extradi-

tion order, and another man.

they called the prince, taught

them about Islam and told

them they would go and fight

in Bosnia but ordered them

to Morocco, where he said

used to tell us after our return from Afghanistan, of the mis-fortunes of Muslims in Pales-

tine and Bosnia where chil-

dren dying and pregnant

women were disemboweled.

He said it was the same in

Morocco but on a different

level." Hammadi told the

The defence lawyers

argued that the men could

not receive a fair trial be-

cause the alleged ringleader

and other suspects still at

large, some of them in

France, had not been heard.

men told him during the trial

that "the important thing was

to get close to Allah as soon

Authorities described the

suspects as "terrorists" bent

on destabilising Morocco.

where the army-backed gov-

ernment is locked in battle

with Islamists, suffered after

Morocco accused Algerian

security services of training

Algeria denied the charges

and closed its border with

Relations with Algeria,

possible."

the gunmen.

Morocco after

Chaouche said one of the

court in his testimony.

"I remember how Rachid

Muslims were oppressed.

They said Rachid, who

### Algerian legislator killed amid Ramadan threats how they were killed or pre-

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A leading member of Algeria's transitional parliament, Moussa Moghni, has been killed, security services said Saturday without giving . further details. Moghni, deputy chairman

of the finance and budget commission on the National Transitional Council (CNT), was also chairman of a political party, the Rally for National Unity.

He was the third member of the CNT to be killed, following the murders of Salah Nour on Jan. 15 and of Mohamad Kaci Abdullah last August.

In another incident, gunmen abducted a young Algerian woman and her three teenaged brothers and later dumped their bodies far from their home, police said.

A security announcement carried by the official agency APS said all four were seized on Tuesday from their family home in Al Kamilia town, 155 kilometres southeast of the Algerian capital. Their bodies were found in western Algeria.

APS named the woman as unemployed Fadila Zoubar, The brothers were identified as Ahmad, also unemployed, Kamel, 15, and Manfoud, 13, both teenagers at school

The report did not indicate

brother of a leading fundamentalist imam, Abdul Kader Moghui, who preaches in the working-class Bab Al Oued district of Algiers and is an associate of FIS deputy leader Ali Belhadj.

### Three sentenced to death in | Arrests top 3,100 in Morocco on terrorism charge Bahrain — opposition

TEHRAN (AFP) - The number of people arrested in more than a month of antigovernment protests in Bahrain has reached 3,100, the exiled Bahraini opposition said Saturday.

A total of 150 people have also been injured in clashes between security forces and demonstrators, 11 of whom are in a coma, since the onset of violence in mid-December, a spokesman for the Islamic Front for Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said.

Clashes erupted in Bahrain after the arrest on Dec. 5 of leading Shiite Muslim cleric Sheikh Ali Salman. He had asked for the restoration of parliament, suspended since Sheikh Ali has since been

freed and deported to United Arab Emirates, from where he travelled to London and asked for political asylum. The opposition says 17

people have been killed in clashes between the police and demonstrators, while the authorities have only reported the death of one policeman The IFLB spokesman

added that the situation of prisoners arrested in Bahrain was "grave and worrisome" because they were denied proper medical care and the right to have an attorney. The group charged Thursday that a number of prison-

ers had died under torture. There was no independent confirmation of the opposition reports. The trouble is the worst in

Bahrain since the former British protectorate gained independence in 1971. Protests erupted in two villages in Bahrain Friday after the burial of a man shot dead

by security forces, the exiled The Interior Ministry delivered a tough warming to "troublemakers" it said were trying to destabilise the emirate, but added that the situation was "under control," in a statement carried by the official Bahraini news agency

GNA. Opposition activists in the Gulf contacted by telephone said trouble broke out after Friday prayers in Sitra, southeast of the capital Manama, where 24-year-old Hussein Ali Al Safi was shot dead Thursday, and in Bani Jamrah, northwest of Manama. where another victim of the

clashes was buried Thursday. Supporters of the Londonbased Movement for the Li-beration of Bahrain said Safi died when security forces fired live bullets, rubber bullets and tear-gas at demon-strators late Thursday who were demanding restoration of the constitution suspended

in 1975. Abdul Redha Mansur Al Hajji, 30, died of serious wounds sustained in clashes with police 10 days ago and was buried in Bani Janirah Thursday, said a statement from the opposition movement received by AFP.

There was no independent confirmation of the opposition reports.

#### **British baby** dies of thirst LONDON (R) — An 18-

month-old boy died of thirst and lay undiscovered amid unopened Christmas presents after both his parents died from an apparent drug over-dose, an inquest was told Friday. Neighbours found the body of Michael Walker after they broke into the family's apartment in Rhyl, north Wales. The corpses of his parents Tony and Elizabeth, both in their 20s, were discovered nearby. The family had not been seen since before Christmas. "The bodies were in some state of putrefaction and decay, and there was evidence at the scene of probable drug abuse," detective Sergeant Philip Welsh told the inquest. "Syringes were scattered about the floor. There were powders and items we would usually associate with the drugs scene." A post-mortem examination revealed the toddler had died of cardio hydration. Coroner David Jones adjourned the inquest pending results of further forensic tests to determine the cause of death of his

